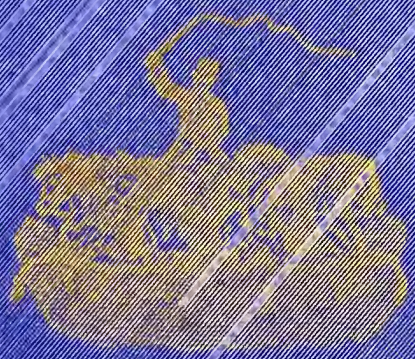
PIONEER



Joseph Caurco Rowe

FOUNDER

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CALIFORNIA'S PIONEER CIRCUS

California's PIONEER Circus

Joseph Andrew Rowe
FOUNDER

Memoirs

AND

Personal Correspondence
Relative to
The Circus Business
Through the Gold Country
In the 50's

Original Illustrations

EDITED BY
ALBERT DRESSLER

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REFERENCE

Printed by
H. S. Crocker Co., Inc., Since 1856
San Francisco

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MEMOIRS

OF

JOSEPH ANDREW ROWE

THE CELEBRATED EQUESTRIAN
AND DOMESTICATOR OF
THE HORSE

Joseph Andrew Rowe, pioneer of the equestrian business in California, was born in Kingston, Lenoir County, North Carolina, in the year 1819, of parents who were well to do in the world and in easy circumstances. Our hero at the age of eight years found himself an orphan, and under the surveillance of a guardian who cared but little for his welfare, neglecting his education, and having no restraint on young Rowe, who was as full of tricks and antics as boys generally are who have their own way at this age.

Joe's principal pastime at this early date was standing on his hands against the side of a livery stable in the town, and riding horses to water—not in the usual way, but standing up, much to the annoyance of several old ladies, who were intimately acquainted with his parents while living, and who were often heard to remark, "That boy will never come to any good."

In the year 1829, a Circus Company, owned by Asa T. Smith, arrived in Kingston. The continual bad treatment young Rowe received from his guardians induced him to apply to Mr. Smith, who at that time was anxious to find a boy so requisite in daring and energy to make a good performer. He immediately told the boy he would take him for four years. This delighted our hero, and the next morning he bade adieu to the place of his childhood and mounted one of the baggage wagons, and commenced his career as a Circus Rider, where, after the various vicissitudes incidental to beginners, he got along splendidly for three years, when, finding a

stipulation in his agreement with Mr. Smith not complied with, namely, an education—he remonstrated with his employer and told him he would leave him. This was objected to, and for a year after poor Joe had to suffer for demanding his rights, until their arrival in Baltimore, in 1833, when he applied through the manager of the company for a release, which was granted by one of the courts.

Being free he commenced to act for himself, and being proficient in the business he applied to Joe Palmer, who arrived in Baltimore shortly after this occurrence, and was engaged by him. From that time his popularity commenced. Being then in the best company that was traveling, he soon acquired a name for daring second to none, and having improved greatly during his time with Mr. Palmer, fulfilling his obligations strictly, until their arrival in Columbia, South Carolina, when the equestrian manager, Mr. Peter Coty, left the company for the purpose of starting one himself. He promptly engaged Joe, besides paying him extra to assist breaking his horses. Joe remained with him during the season, and then joined a Caravan, under the management of Messrs. Buchard & Cranly, and traveled to Philadelphia, where he commenced an engagement with the celebrated Circus Company of Buckley & Weeks, with whom he remained two years, wintering in 1835 and 1836 at the Lion Theater in Boston, starting out the traveling season of 1837, and proceeding to Providence, Rhode Island, where he left them, and went to New York to pass the summer. During this time a project was started by Rowe, in company with the celebrated tight-rope dancer, Mariano Perez, to go to the Island of Cuba, and investing what money they had in procuring horses to start an Equestrian Company to travel over the Island. It was Joe's first effort in management, and was, as he had always been, successful. After traveling over the entire Island, he returned to New York.

In the spring of 1838, he accepted an engagement from his former manager, Mr. Peter Coty, and Perez accompanying him,

they proceeded to St. Thomas, West Indies, where the Company remained two months, doing a fine business. From there they went to Caracas, in Venezuela, and after staying there for a short time, Perez got into a difficulty with Mr. Coty, causing the Company to break up. Again Rowe and Perez launched out for themselves. They purchased a few horses and broke them, remaining there three or four months, and doing better business than the old Company. The citizens were delighted, and the President extended many favors to them, visiting their performances constantly. Being a great admirer of their style of entertainment, and being particularly pleased with the docility of their horses, he insisted that Mr. Rowe should take his war horse, Paloma, and train him for the ring, and much to the wonder of the President and the astonishment of the citizens, Paloma made his first bow as a trick horse to the largest audience ever assembled there, on the occasion of his tutor's benefit. The audience were in ecstasies with his performance, and the President, Piaz, rewarded Mr. Rowe with a beautiful embroidered purse containing sixty ounces of gold, and besides giving them letters to various dignitaries throughout the State, aiding them greatly in business matters.

They left Venezuela, much to their regret, and proceeded to the Island of Curacoa, and after performing a month, started for Carthagenia, where they arrived in the fall of 1839, and united themselves with Mr. Matis and family, celebrated rope dancers. They played a short time, doing a fair business, and left for Kingston, Jamaica. Erecting a building there, they remained for some four months. Their business being limited, they dissolved with Mr. Matis, and again started on their own responsibility, visiting San Diego, Mansanillo, Bayano, Porte Principe, Montego Bay, and the Island of Cuba. He again embarked on the steamer *Alabama*, and arrived in New Orleans in 1845, with two trick horses, Adonis and Mercury. He did not remain idle long, having associated himself with Mr. Durastius Rich, in a small but good performing company, and after playing in the vicinity for some time, they embarked for

Key West, and from there to New Providence, where they did a remarkably good business.

After a lapse of five weeks, his partner returned to New Orleans, and he retraced his way again to Key West, and finding a very useful and hard-working man by the name of Whitby he associated himself with him, and sailed for Matanzas, Island of Cuba. He remained in Cuba about eight months, during which time he bought his celebrated performing pony, Othello, and broke him. By this time he had grown tired of Cuba, and his partner Whitby desiring to remain there, they separated amicably, Rowe leaving for Curacoa. Remaining there but a short time, he started for Maraicabo, in Venezuela, where the kindness so proverbial on his first visit was not in the least diminished.

Everywhere through the interior of the republic the hand of friendship was extended to him, and all appeared delighted with his return. He spent the entire summer of 1846, retracing his steps again to the Coast, with the fond remembrance of the many hospitalities he received from the generous inhabitants. Arriving in Porto Cabello about September, his desire to see Central America led him to take his company to Santa Martha, in New Grenada; and, wishing to be the pioneer in equestrian amusements at the capital, he proceeded up the Magdalena River, to Bogota, where, as usual, his company was received with delight and astonishment. The continual thirst to see this portion of America induced him to stay but a short time in Bogota. He soon found his way to Quito, the capital of Ecuador; giving but a few entertainments there, they left for Guayaquil, the seaport of the Republic, playing in the meantime at all the intermediate places, and arrived there about November, 1848. After remaining at the above place two months, and realizing their dearest wishes, viz.: a fair compensation for their services, he embarked on board the English mail steamer for Callao and Lima, where they played constantly until the first of May, 1849, when the great tide of travel commenced flowing to California through Panama. He immediately packed up, and found

himself in the latter place soon afterwards, amid the dreadful ravages of the cholera, and after many vicissitudes and misfortunes, he left Panama the last of August for San Francisco on the bark *Tasso*.

To Mrs. Rowe,
On board the bark *Tasso*.

At Sea, Near San Francisco,
October 2, 1849.

Resolved, We, the undersigned, passengers from Panama to San Francisco, having heard and witnessed with pleasure, and some few of us thankfully experienced, the kind attention of Mrs. Rowe of the Circus Company, cabin passenger, during our tedious and protracted voyage—take this, the earliest opportunity (ere we arrive at, or separate from, that long sought-for shore now so near, and whilst we congratulate each other, and thank the Lord, for our safe arrival) of returning out sincere acknowledgments and best thanks to that lady for her uniform and agreeable comportment to all on board, and more particularly for the sympathy manifested and timely relief occasionally rendered towards the few fever-stricken individuals, from her own slender sea store.

In thus conveying to that amiable and truly tender-hearted woman, this small tribute of our esteem and thankfulness, we conceive it not departing from our duty as freeborn citizens, imbued with the laudable and philanthropic principle of giving merit its due meed of praise, especially under such circumstances, when that precious gem is found ornamenting the mind and shining forth in its native Christian tenderness, from the female breast, but on the contrary, feel it to be our most pleasing duty, when considering that silence on our part might be construed if not into criminality, imputed to bad taste, and calculated alike to weaken the fervor of a generous spirit, and so far injure others who may come within the sphere of her acquaintance in the future. And, therefore, feeling a

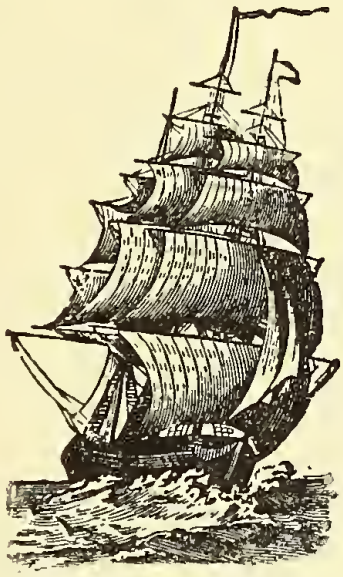
manly sympathy for the departed, we hereby cordially concur in this public expression of our esteem, the desire and warm hope, that both Mrs. Rowe and husband, may live long and happily together, free from the wants of this life, by sea and land, as also accidents, troubles and sickness, incidental to their profession, and in the enjoyment of the rewards of their just pursuits, becoming even more prosperous daily.

And in conclusion we confidently trust that their company will receive that share of public patronage and support, at this new celebrated American settlement, San Francisco, and elsewhere, to which their abilities as equestrian performers so justly entitle them.

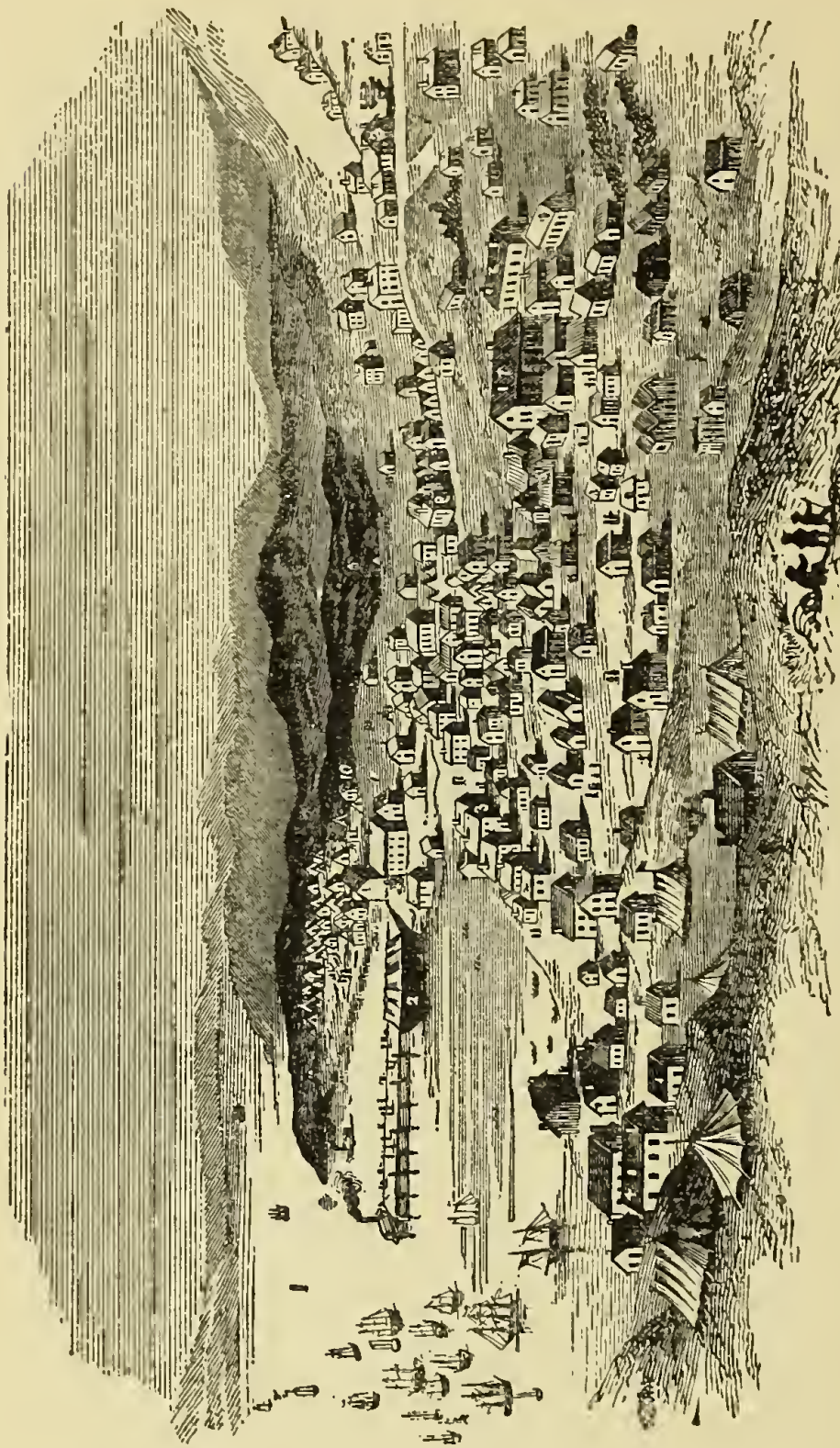
T. D. Bigley, W. H. Reynolds, Chas. Wiley, Lewis Ingram, John Wagstaff, Andrew Billings, H. C. Everett, W. Murlin, Henry M. Whiting, James Murray, Thomas R. Dasomb, Jacob Francisco, M. M. Harvey, E. P. Baker, Isaac McKim Cooke, A. D. Berry, Benjamin Tilley, Calvin Baker, Charles B. Mitchell, Benj. Adams, Alfred L. Eddy, Rouben M. Joy, Christopher M. Myrick, Jeremiah P. Fay, James S. Mahoney, A. A. Burnett, Sewell Knapp, Edward H. Scofield, David Schooram, Winslow Gallisan, Frederick Stilton, Paul S. Niles, States T. Cary, Chas. W. Hartshorn, John S. Mead, Lem'l T. Talbot, John S. Moxley, John Delaney, C. D. Russell, Tho. H. Whisler, Edward A. Anderson, Simon Sartnell, Jr., Henry Mellen, George Wagstaff, Abiather Steples, A. J. Eddy, John Chapman, C. B. Gillet, H. A. Smith, S. K. Marsh, A. Cragin, John Shuman, C. A. McCarty, John A. Eddy, Wm. H. Smith, Elisha W. Bourne, Geo. B. Alsop, Esq., Francis H. Bailey, Shubrick Norris, Nicho B. Gardiner, Samuel Yacoly, A. L. Eichelberger, Geo. H. Steptons, A. D. Champney, James Dougherty, John G. Hooper, Hugh Kennedy, William H. Benton, J. C. Davison, L. C. Hyland, G. W. Jackson, C. D. Olaham, Seth H. Sabin, M. D. Platt.

The *Tasso* under full sail entered the Narrows, now the famed Golden Gate, arriving in San Francisco on the 12th of October, 1849. Rowe remained but a short time inactive. On the 29th of October he gave the first circus entertainment in California, under

the name of "Rowe's Olympic Circus" in an Amphitheater on the east side of Kearny Street between California and Sacramento streets, where Commercial Street is now cut through, with a company composed of Mr. and Mrs. Rowe, Master Rafael, Mr. William H. Foley—all riders with the exception of Mr. Foley, who was a clown. Signor and Signora Levero as rope dancers; Mr. Westcott, ringmaster, and Messrs. Stevens and Long.



THE GOOD SHIP "TASSO"



SAN FRANCISCO IN 1849.

From Broadway, Near Kearny Street.
Drawn and engraved by Thomas Armstrong, in the fall of 1849.

(Newspaper Extract)

"ALTA CALIFORNIA"

San Francisco,
Thursday Nov. 1, 1849.

"San Franciscans have public amusement and a place of evening resort at length. Rowe's Olympic Circus opened on Monday evening last to a crowded audience, and the performances gave ample satisfaction if we are to judge from the frequent and uproarious bursts of applause with which the varied entertainment was greeted. The house has been plainly though comfortably fitted up and will conveniently seat from twelve to fifteen hundred persons. It consists of a pit and tier of boxes set apart and planned for the uninterrupted and full enjoyment of the sports of the ring and is, altogether, a place of amusement, arranged with a degree of comfort which we were quite unprepared to meet. Mr. Rowe is a graceful and practised rider, and appears advantageously in the habiliments and in the exercise of his profession. Mr. Foley, albeit his legitimate sphere is that of a dashing rider, makes a very clever clown,. and the company generally though requiring practice, evince decided talent. Mrs. Rowe is a female equestrian of pleasing merit, and her appearance called forth warm applause. The performances on the *corde elastique* were truly excellent, and particularly have we to commend the fearlessness and grace of Senora Levero. The 'Thunders of Applause' with which her execution of most difficult feats, was received, were indeed merited.

"Mr. Rowe has attained a high degree of excellence in the training of his horses. His favorite Adonis is the very paragon of sagacity, obedience and docility. Seldom have we seen a more perfectly tutored animal. The pony Billy is another evidence of that remarkable proficiency in the education of a horse which skill, care and good treatment on the part of the master will accomplish.

"Mr. Rowe's circus entertainments will relieve the tedium of many an approaching long winter evening, and we congratulate our citizens on the establishment of a place of amusement in our midst under such favorable auspices."

(End of Extract)

Large audiences and success to the Circus Company continued —at an admission of $3—in the meantime Mr. Foley left suddenly because, as he said, could not live on the salary he was receiving of $1,200 per month.

On December 10th, 1849, an interest was purchased in this circus by the well-known and favorite circus clown, Dave Long. Shortly after they closed here and erected the first stage where dramatic performances in combination with circus entertainment were to be given. On February 4th, 1850, they opened with a company of the following artists:

1850

Feb. 4. Opening night Rowe's Circus as an Amphitheatre. Boxes $3, Parquet $2, Private Boxes $5; First appearance Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Batters, Mr. and Mrs. McCron, Messrs. Carleton, Geo. Campnell and George Mitchell. First representation Othello (Carleton as Othello; Hamilton as Iago). First representation, Bachelors' Buttons.

Feb. 7. First representation Love in Humble Life and Dead Shot.

Feb. 8. First representation Soldier, Sailor, Tinker, Tailor.

Feb. 13. First representation Idiot Witness.

Feb. 15. First representation Seven Clerks and Race for a Wife.

Feb. 16. First representation Irish Tutor.

Feb. 19. First representation Golden Farmer.

Feb. 20. First representation Happy Hours.

Feb. 21. First appearance Mrs. J. H. Kirby as Pauline in The Lady of Lyons. . . First night of Mr. J. B. Atwater.

Feb. 23. First appearance of Mr. Nesbit McCron and first representation of William Tell.

Feb. 27. First representation of Rent Day and Intrigue or The Bath Road.

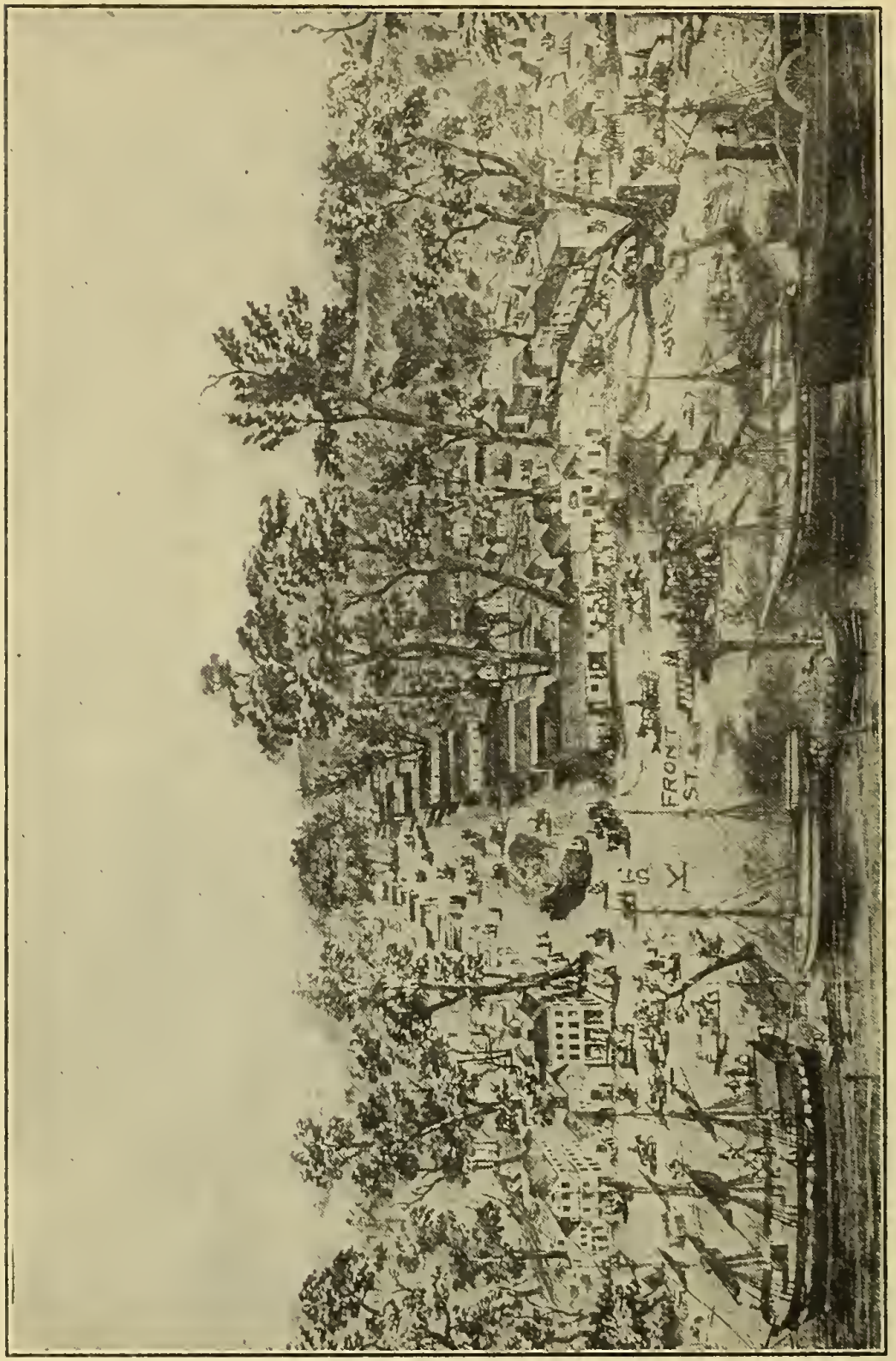
Mar. 1. First representation of Richard the Third.

Mar. 4. First representation of Two Drovers or Fatal Prophecy.

Mar. 6. First representation of EMIGRANT'S DAUGHTER and FOX AND THE WOLF.
Mar. 9. Benefit Mrs. J. H. Kirby.
Mar. 11. Benefit Master Rafael. First representation of WARLOCK OF THE GLEN. Closing night of the dramatic performances.
Mar. 18. Farewell benefit J. A. Rowe.
Mar. 21. Farewell benefit Dave Long.
Mar. 26. Benefit Mr. Foley, Circus Clown.
Apr. 4. Entertainment by troupe of Mexican singers and dancers.
Apr. 30. Purchase of Rowe's Amphitheatre by W. H. Foley announced.

After experiencing considerable success, the Amphitheatre on May 16th passed into the hands of Mr. W. H. Foley, who occupied it for occasional bull fights and a company of Spanish dancers, until June 14th, when it was destroyed by fire.

From San Francisco Rowe proceeded to Sacramento, California, and there gave the first performance of its kind at the Pacific Theater on May 2nd, 1850. Admission prices were as follows: Private boxes $5; Dress Circle and Parquet $3; Second Tier $2. After remaining there for three months a large and commodious building was started to be erected for him on Front Street between K and L Streets, by Mr. Samuel Brannan, a notable Pioneer. During the interim Rowe returned to San Francisco on August 14th, and commenced the erection of a temporary building to be known as the "New Olympic Amphitheater" in the rear of the Eureka Hotel on Montgomery Street between California and Sacramento Streets, which was completed in a few weeks. Playing there in company with George Moore, the celebrated clown, the admissions were as follows: Seats in private boxes $4; Dress Circle $2; Pit $1. In the meantime Samuel Brannan's Building in Sacramento was finished in October, but as the circus business in San Francisco was very profitable Rowe gave but two weeks' entertainment in Sacramento, returning to San Francisco and continuing with tremendous success until December, 1850.



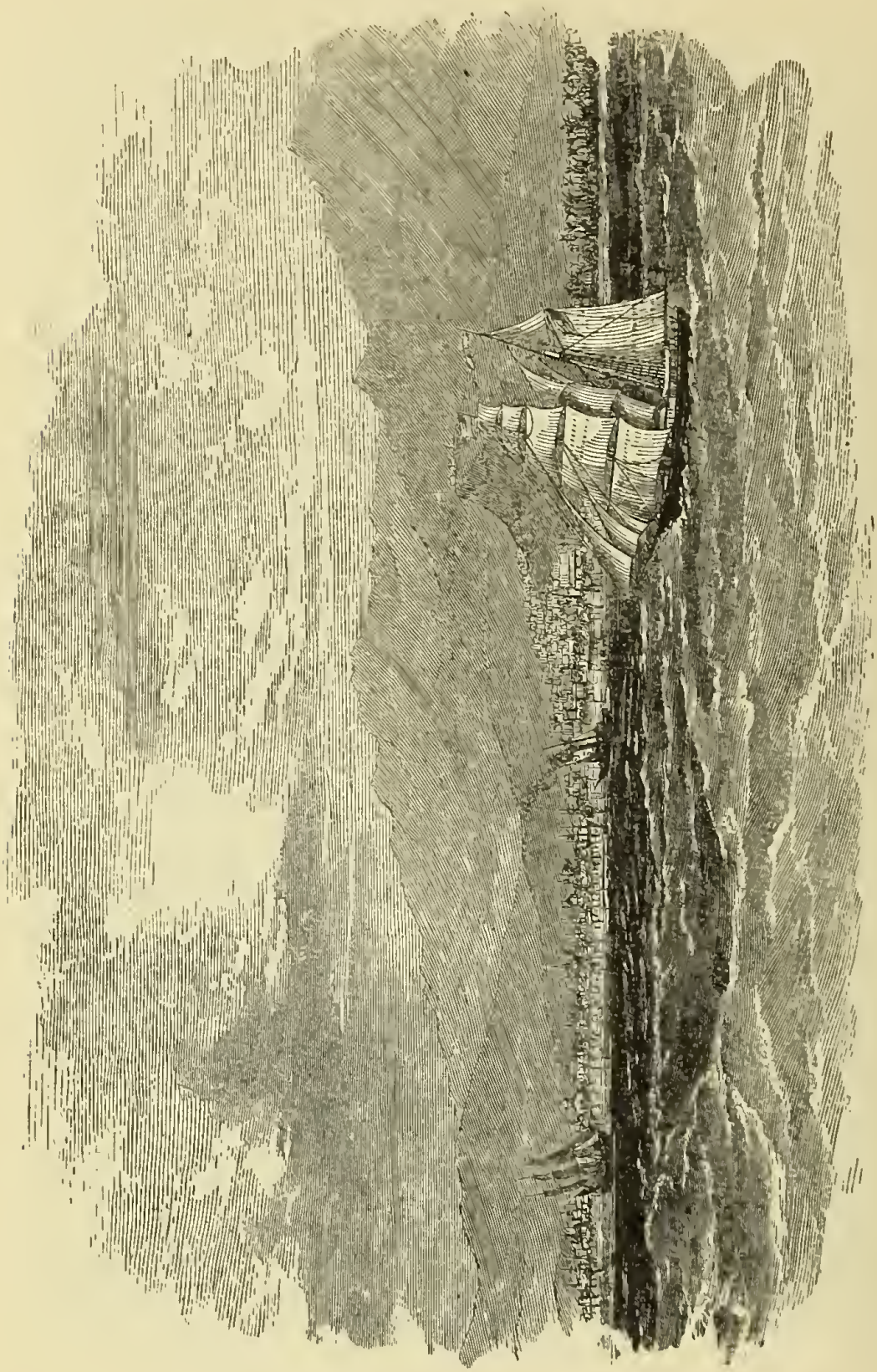
SACRAMENTO IN 1850

Front Street between K and L, where the "Pioneer Circus" exhibited

Rowe's company now being one of the best on the continent, his thirst for traveling again assumed considerable sway over his feelings, and he concluded to start for Australia, visiting the Sandwich and Society Islands. For that purpose the *Leveret* was chartered and sailed from San Francisco in the spring of 1851 for Honolulu, where they arrived without any mishaps or adventures. They commenced playing the week after their arrival, King Kamehameha being particularly pleased with the entertainment. The delighted natives attended in large numbers, much to the satisfaction of Rowe and his company. The circus business in the Sandwich Isles was indeed profitable. A deputation awaited the company, asking them to go to Lahaina, with which request they cheerfully complied. They played to tremendous houses in Lahaina. Early in December Rowe bought the brig *General Worth*, and on the 12th left for Tahiti, Society Islands, arriving in January, 1852.

The Cannibals greeted Rowe, his equestrian troupe and stud of ten horses graciously, and were quickly and successfully charmed of their cares and cash. Seemingly the cannibals were also beguiled of their appetite, as the company, after showing for a short while, embarked on their vessel and no one was reported missing. This was the first Amphitheatrical group that ever took tribute from the Cannibal Islands.

Sailing on, they were overtaken by the gale of February 6th, when 100 miles to the eastward of Norfolk Island, and sustained damage to sails and spars, but continued on to Auckland, New Zealand, arriving there on the 24th of March, 1852. Money being scarce there, they played but a short time, and started for Melbourne, where they arrived on the first of May. After a series of vexatious troubles and prejudices, occasioned by the Mayor not granting them a license, in consequence of his being interested in one of the theaters, the citizens—God bless them—took his case in hand, and he had the satisfaction after six weeks' delay and disappointment, of erecting a building and giving the first circus entertainment in Australia.



THE "LEVERET"
Approaching Honolulu

AUSTRALIAN PRESS NOTICES.

—o—

THE CIRCUS.—The A-1 Yankee built clipper *Rowe*, having escaped the dangerous rock Right Worshipful, and the frightfully obscure reef John Brown, has at length got into smooth water, and with the fair breeze of public support, calculates on speedily arriving at the Port of Remuneration. To drop the language of metaphor, this enterprising gentleman opens his place of amusement this evening with a bill of fare for the occasion, sufficient in itself to draw a bumper house, without the additional attraction of an opening night. On Saturday we visited the circus, and were certainly struck with the elegance of its appearance, and the completeness of the arrangements for the accommodation of its visitors. The building which is capable of containing with ease 800 persons, is divided into pit, boxes and dress-circle, the two latter being separated from the former by partitions, and approached by a separate entrance from the street. The dress-circle is situate on the top of an inclined flooring, rising from the ring, and is fitted up very tastefully with red and white hangings, the seats being arranged so as to afford abundance of room to the visitors. In the center of the circle a box has been constructed for the especial use of the Lieutenant-Governor and suite. This is handsomely fitted up, and is approached by a private staircase. The boxes are immediately below the dress-circle, and do not materially differ in their accommodation. The orchestra is placed in a balcony immediately over the entrance from the stables; but prior to the commencement of the performance a band will play outside the building, in a balcony over the entrance, which faces the junction of Stephen and Lonsdale streets. There are several minor details of arrangement, which our space will not permit us to enumerate; they all tend, however, to one object—the comfort and convenience of the public. We wish Mr. Rowe all success in his undertaking; and trust that to-night may be the commencement of a

prosperous season, which will compensate him for all the loss, trouble and annoyance to which he has been so unnecessarily exposed.

——o——

The Opening of Mr. Rowe's Equestrian Circus.—The opening of the Circus recently erected by Mr. Rowe, at the junction of Lonsdale and Stephen streets, which took place last evening, created no little sensation throughout the city. At an early hour of the day so great was the demand for tickets, that the proprietor, under the impression that the building would not comfortably accommodate more than 800 persons, was compelled to refuse supplying the numerous demands which were made upon him. The building, which has been erected at a cost of nearly £1,000, is about two hundred and sixty feet in circumference; the ring in which the equestrian exhibitions take place, is probably about one hundred and fifty. The accommodations for the public are excellent, either in the pit, boxes or the dress circle, the latter being fitted up in a most magnificent style for the reception of the first families in the colony. Prior to the doors being opened, the excellent Saxe Horn Band, whose services have been engaged for the season, enlivened the scene, and continued to do so at intervals throughout the evening. The building was crowded to suffocation upon the opening of the doors, notwithstanding which, the utmost good order prevailed throughout the entertainments. Of the amusements themselves, we cannot speak too highly. We were going to say that the efforts of Ducrow, Batty, and the exhibitions at the far-famed Astley's dwindled into insignificance when compared with those which, through the enterprise of Mr. Rowe, have been provided for us; but, fearful of being charged with partiality, we will content ourselves by saying that they were fully equal to any which we have witnessed or which we have heard of being presented to the public in any quarter of the globe. From the absence hitherto of anything like an ample supply of rational amusement in Melbourne, and the fact of the theater being about

to close for the season, we have no doubt that the spirited proprietor of the Circus will reap a rich harvest, to which his exertions and enterprise in catering for the amusement of the public fully entitle him. Our only regret is, that upon the opening night *so many hundreds* of persons should have been compelled to go away, laboring under no little disappointment from being unable to obtain admission in consequence of the crowded state of the house.

——o——

Amusements—Rowe's American Circus.—This place of equestrian entertainment has had a triumphant week. On Monday, His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor, favored Mr. Rowe's Circus with a visit to an afternoon performance, which was also attended by a crowded and fashionable company. Mr. Rowe made every possible preparation to do honor to the occasion, and his Excellency expressed himself much gratified with the arrangements provided. The performance, besides introducing some new and gorgeous dresses and decorations, did not differ materially from the usual evening's programme. We understand these afternoon exhibitions are to be continued, and will no doubt be fully attended by many of the population who do not like to face the night air.

——o——

Mr. Rowe's Circus.—His Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor, was so delighted with his recent visit to Mr. Rowe's Circus, that he has been pleased to intimate his intention of paying another visit during the present week. We are pleased to see entertainments of this nature conducted in such a manner that His Excellency and the better classes of society *can* patronize them. On the present we are gratified on another ground, as His Excellency's presence has the effect of drawing a bumper house, of which Mr. Rowe, from his exertions in catering for public amusement and the creditable and orderly manner in which his establishment is conducted, is amply deserving.

——o——

Testimonial to Mr. Rowe.—One of the neatest specimens of Colonial artistical skill, a memorial medal, intended for presenta-

tion to Mr. Rowe, the spirited proprietor of the AMERICAN CIRCUS, by the several parties in his employment, and, as far as we may be permitted to express an opinion, we believe Mr. Rowe richly merits such a testimony of esteem. It is manufactured of pure Victorian gold, the artist being Mr. Drew, watchmaker and jeweler, Collins Street, east, and after the artist's own design. It weighs ten ounces, is in the shape of a large shield-like medal—and bears the following inscription: "Presented to Joseph A. Rowe, Esq., of the American Circus, Melbourne, by his *attaches*, as a token of esteem for him, as a man and an employer.—August 1853." The shield is encircled with laurel wreaths, and on the top figures the Australian aborigine, with his boomerang and spear, and coiling within a short distance, the Kangaroo. Beneath the inscription stoops down in bold relief, Mr. Rowe's favorite horse, Adonis, taking some bread from his master's mouth, whilst Mr. Rowe lies on the ground in the part of the Indian Chief. On the whole, we cannot express too much admiration for either the design or work.

——o——

PRESENTATION TO MR. ROWE.—On Monday evening the American Circus was crowded to suffocation, and hundreds went away without their being able to gain admission. Beside the great number who usually attend, an additional crowd was drawn there to witness the presentation of the medal to Mr. Rowe. His Worship, the Mayor, and several other prominent public gentlemen, who are private or public friends of Mr. Rowe, were present to witness the ceremony. Mr. Thomas Warner, in a neat and brief speech, presented the medal to Mr. Rowe, and in the course of his remarks, informed Mr. Rowe of the object the parties had in view who presented it, viz.: to show their esteem and regard for him as a man and an employer. He also gave a description of the medal and its ornaments, and expressed the wish that its presentation might stimulate other employers to behave as well to those whom they employed as Mr. Rowe did, and closed with uttering the hope that

Mr. Rowe might live long to possess the gift. At the time of the presentation, Mr. Warner and Mr. Rowe stood on the stage in front of the orchestra and were surrounded by the members of the Company in the costume in which they had appeared in the entree. Mr. Rowe made a pithy and very appropriate reply, after which the beautiful present was handed round by Mr. Brewer to the audience for inspection. A greater number of persons were present, and more money was taken at the Circus on Monday evening than on any previous occasion since the establishment was opened.

——o——

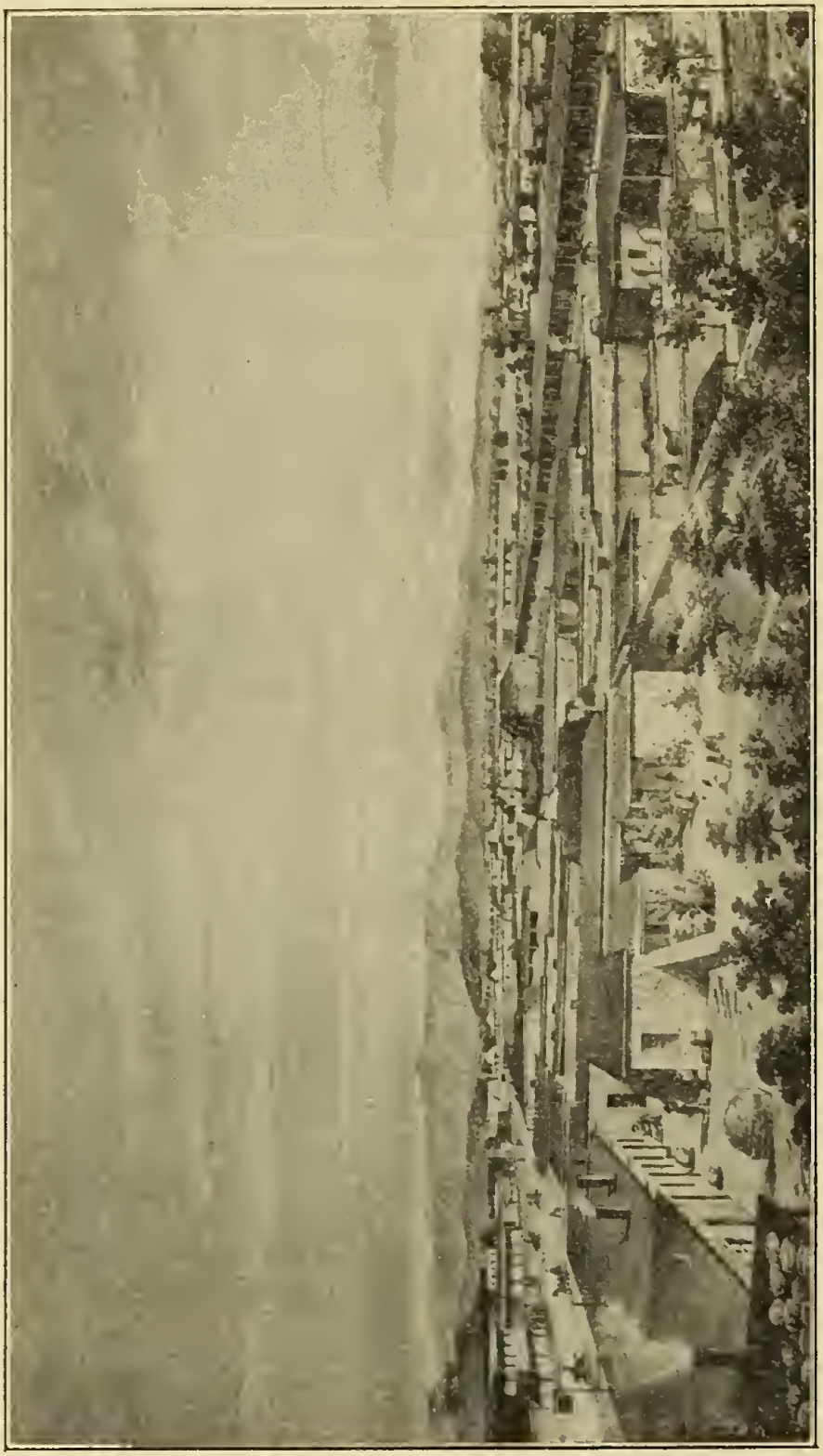
Benefit for the Hospital.—Mr. Rowe handed over to Alderman Nicholson, for the benefit of the Hospital, a check for two hundred and twenty-two pounds, as the proceeds of Monday night's entertainment at the circus. We need hardly say that the house was crammed to excess on the occasion, and we were pleased to see that much better order was preserved than on any previous occasion. It certainly is not so much the fault of Mr. Rowe, that disturbances occasionally take place, as he has a strong body of police always on duty, whom he pays very liberally for their services. A little more activity on the part of these officials, and a little more determination on the part of the audience themselves, in seeing decorum preserved, would effectually put a stop to the annoyance we have mentioned.

(End of Australian Press Notices)

——o——

From the day of the opening in Melbourne, Rowe's star was in the zenith. He enjoyed a continual succession of triumps, lasting in all two years, in the meantime doing the most unprecedented business of any circus manager living at this time, and having the greatest financial success. Nevertheless, he longed for California as he had left many friends there and desired to share his success, and decided to enjoy it amongst them.

Rowe now fortune laden, with over $100,000 in cash and numerous chests of treasure, together with his company, sailed from



LOS ANGELES
—1854—

Melbourne in the early part of 1854, arriving in San Francisco the following spring. Hardly had the ship's anchor touched bottom till the news of his arrival was carried about the town with the speed of an arrow. Being very popular, a large crowd assembled at the wharf to welcome him and his famous entertainers, their eyes glowing with delight and curiosity as they clasped the hands of their returning friends. Tears of joy glistened in Mr. Rowe's eyes as he gazed upon old friends and acquaintances assembled there to greet them. The ever generous Ringmaster and the noted Equestrienne, his wife, celebrated their homecoming by spreading, for their friends, a lavish banquet at which bounteous hospitality was so manifest that Rowe was christened by popular acclaim, "Colonel," a title that was rightfully to remain with him for the balance of his life.

Colonel Rowe and wife concluded to retire from the circus business, desiring to live for the remainder of their days in peace and quiet, so, after resting and settling their business affairs in San Francisco they departed, much to the regret of their friends, for Southern California to establish a permanent home. On May 30th, 1854, they purchased the Santa Anita,* one of California's finest Ranchos. This rancho was purchased from Henry and Guadalupe Dalton for the sum of $33,000. He also purchased from the Daltons

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*SANTA ANITA RANCHO.

Extract From Los Angeles County Court House Deed Book No. 1, Page 587.

All that tract, or piece of land lying and being situate in the County of Los Angeles Township of San Gabriel and State of California, known by the name of the Rancho of Santa Anita and bounded and described as follows, to-wit: Beginning in the boundary line of the lands of Andrer Duarte at a point at the Sierra which can be surveyed, and running South West Seven Thousand five hundred varas to a point in the plain, thence in a Western course Ten Thousand five hundred varas terminating towards the North at a point which forms a line with the garden of Benjamin D. Wilson, formerly of Victoria Reid; Thence in a direction towards the mountains and to the same, parallel to the first mentioned line, Seven Thousand five hundred varas, and Thence Easterly Ten Thousand five hundred varas to the place of beginning, containing Three Square Leagues of land within the aforesaid boundaries, always excepting and reserving therefrom a piece of said lands lying back of the "Huerta de Quati" of Five hundred varas square, and ending a little beyond the trench of water with which the said "huerta" is irrigated, more particular reference for metes and bounds of said Rancho of Santa Anita being had to the Act of Judicial possession and the conveyance of the same by Hugo Reid to the said Henry Dalton of date May 29th, 1847.

Santa Anita Rancho comprised of about 10,000 acres at the time of Rowe's purchase, now taking in the cities of Arcadia, Sierra Madre and part of Monrovia. Lucky Baldwin purchased the Santa Anita Rancho in the seventies for about $200,000.

for $7,000 a tract of land in the City of Los Angeles, bordering the Los Angeles River. June 1st, 1854, he purchased lots for $10,000 from Manuel Garfias, the location being the junction of Main and Spring Streets. On the same day $2,500 was paid to B. Hose for lots, and the following day he purchased from Leonardo Cota for $4,000 city property in the same location. Colonel and his wife made their home on the Rancho, living in a quiet and unassuming manner. To his friends and neighbors he apparently seemed contented, but the strenuous and exciting scenes of circus life would often flit across his mind, calling to life memories of the sawdust arena. The routine of plodding around a Rancho from sunrise to sunset must have rejuvenated him—so much so that he decided to dash back into the ring and again become a circus proprietor.

Returning to San Francisco early in the year 1856 Mr. Rowe began at once to assemble a company. He chose as his partner John Smith, a man thoroughly acquainted with the circus business having been connected with traveling companies since 1836, and later manager of some of the most celebrated organizations in the Atlantic States; among them Spalding and Rogers, Stone & McCollums, S. P. Stickney's, and the St. Louis and Albany Amphitheatres. Col. Rowe dispatched the well known Frank Rivers to New York, at which place he engaged a complete company, including Mr. Wallet, the famous English jester. King and Larue were selected as acrobats and among others a number of well trained equestrians.

Display Advertisement for "California's Pioneer Circus"

"SAN FRANCISCO BULLETIN"

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ROWE & CO'S
PIONEER CIRCUS!

Established in 1849; Refitted and Organized in 1856; at an outlay of $30,000.

J. A. Rowe & John Smith, Proprietors

THIS MONSTER COMPANY, by far the most complete and largest that has appeared in California, will commence on

Saturday, March 8th, 1856, on

JACKSON ST., adjoining the International Hotel,

With the new artists from the Atlantic States—numbering among them,

Miss Mary Ann Whittaker,

Mlle. Julie Tournaire,

BURNELL BUNNELLS,
FRANK WHITTAKER,
WILLIAM FRANKLIN,
THOMAS KING,
WILLIAM LARUE,

And that celebrated Wit and Jester,

WILLIAM F. WALLETT.

Together with the following performers of worth and merit:

JOSEPH A. ROWE, JOHN SMITH,
ROBERT ARMSTRONG, C. WORRELL,
T. THOMPSON, MASTER JULIAN,

And the extraordinary Herculean Performer

MONS. GILLOT,

New Trappings of the most original and costly designs, with richly mounted Silver Harness, are among the importations from the Atlantic States—everything acknowledged to be in keeping with the improvements of this Magnificent Troupe.

THE BAND

Is made up of the first Musical Talent in San Francisco, and will comprise a Brass and String Band, being under the direction and supervision of J. R. PARSONS, for a number of years the leader of Howes & Sands's and Lent's Circuses.

Prices of Admission:

Dress Circle.....$2,00
Box.....$1 | Pit..... 50

☞ Entrance to Dress Circle through the International Hotel—Box by the side of the Hotel.

The doors will be open at 7 P. M., and the entertainments will commence at 8 o'clock.

Attentive ushers to wait on Ladies and Family Parties to seats.

The Police Department will be under the superintendence of Messrs. Sweeny and Bloomer. mh6 tf

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(Newspaper Advertisement)

PRESS NOTICES

From California Papers of the Time

Rowe & Smith's Circus.—This immense establishment was crowded to its utmost capacity on Saturday evening, being the first night of their performance. The audience was delighted with the good taste and excellent performances of the Company. Many of the feats were entirely new, and some of them are truly astonishing. In addition to the accomplished style of performances, the troupe are all fine looking, and make a very agreeable impression upon the audience. The Clown is a fool of the Shakesperian school One that Jacques might moralize upon by the hour. He is the feature of the company, the "Philosopher, poet and sage" and every inch a fool, "Motley is his only wear."

We observed nothing that need shock the most fastidious, and from the great success of the Company on their opening night, we predict for them a very profitable season. This evening Miss Whittaker, the leading equestrienne of the troupe, makes her first appearance.

——o——

Band Wagon.—Rowe's Pioneer Circus Band appeared yesterday in their new wagon, drawn by eight horses. The wagon was built and ornamented in Sacramento, and is an elegant piece of workmanship, and reflects great credit on the mechanics of the "City of the Plains." It was built by John Hays, painted by Durey & Simpson, and ornamented by Dunphy & Jones—all of that city. The front board, which curves gracefully over the backs of the wheel-horses, is ornamented with a spirited representation of Sutter's Fort as it was in '48, with Brannan's store on one corner. The rear, which makes a similar curve in which the big drum is suspended, is decorated with the coat of arms of the State. On either side are several raised and gilded music symbols, under which, in fancy letters, are the title worlds, "Rowe's Pioneer Circus." Eight more wagons are in course of construction in Sacramento.

This splendid Equestrian Establishment opened March 8th, 1856, to one of the largest and most fashionable audiences that ever attended any place of amusement in the State. The performances went off with the greatest possible ECLAT, the audience being greatly pleased frequently made boisterous expression of delight and satisfaction and to this fact of sanguine expectation was a deserving reward to the proprietors.

Everything connected with this establishment is in first class order, whether it be the ARTISTES, "the stud," or the trappings; spangles and tinsel, glitter and parade, add much to the interest of the amusement.

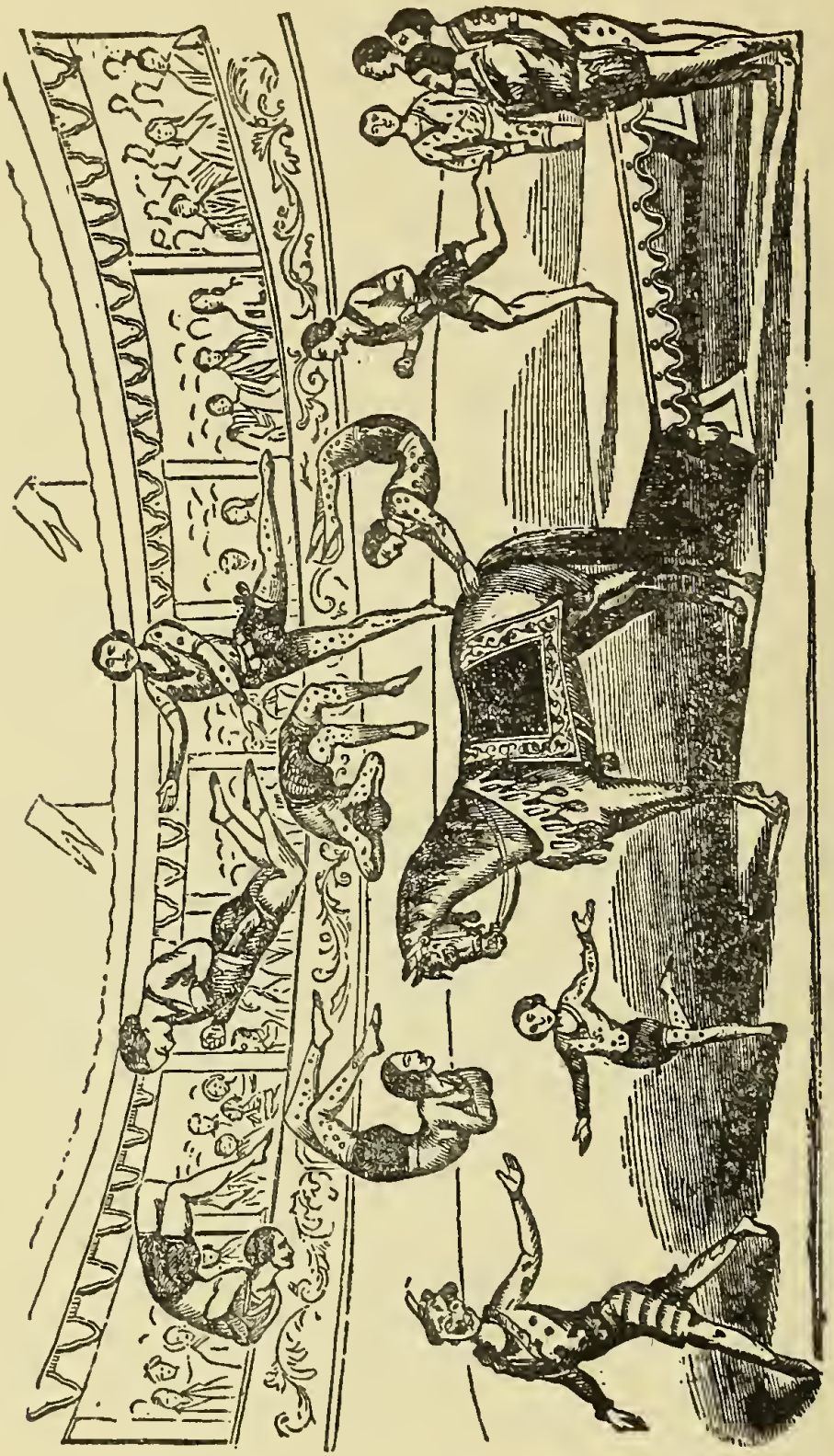
Among the members of this troupe is some of the best talent to be found in any equestrian establishment in America, and when the names of the equitation of Miss Ann Whittaker, albeit, still suffering from the effects of her voyage, was exceedingly graceful, lacking strength at present, she did not astonish, but she gratified. M'lle Tournair, Mr. Wallett (the best living Shakespearean Clown and Jester), Burnell, Runnells, Frank Whittaker, Franklin, King, Brewer, Larue, Rowe, Smith, Thompson, Worrell, and the giant Guilliot (who handles 32 and 48 lb. cannon balls as a boy would peanuts) are mentioned, the reader may rest assured that these are a guarantee for all that may be said in their praise, and no one was disappointed who went to this Circus to see extraordinary feats performed. The dresses of the ARTISTES, as well as the paraphernalia of the arena, are new and of the most tasteful description, and who will deny the truth of what the most celebrated poet of his age wrote, that "a saint in crepe, is TWICE A SAINT in lawn," and the church is not the only place where dress adds zest or dignity to an individual or a class. The best efforts of a first-rate ARTISTE in seedy costume, would barely secure applause from the multitude, but let the same individual appear in a gorgeous dress, and not do half so well, and the welkin would resound with the plaudits bestowed, whether the person be male or female. Just so with a horse, his place is wonderfully improved by

splendid trappings, as the human eye (save in the head of a cynic) loves to dwell on that which is pleasing; and of this fact Messrs. Rowe & Smith seemed well aware, as they, with artistic skill, selected what would please the sens in more ways than one. The members of this TROUPE, in all their varied phases stand second to none in the world, and from time to time for the next six months, additions of talent will be made until it becomes such a galaxy of stars, that all minor constellations will find themselves making lee-way in public opinion, and any astronomical efforts, however great, will be unable to marshal themselves into a position to contend, with any degree of success, against the overwhelming and lodestonelike attractions of the "Pioneer." It draws everything within the influence of its magic CIRCLE.

The band is composed of some of the best musical talent in California, and there is not the least reason to doubt that harmony pervades the pavillion, whilst CONCORD joined in a CONCERT that pleases the audience, musicians, equestriennes, equestrians, acrobats and gymnasts.

The stale jests of the ring, that heretofore seemed the common property of every clown from the days of "Joey Grimaldi" to the present, never are heard in this establishment, as there is a WALLETT full of original fun in it, that is opened every night; and so many good things emanate from it, the audience is under the impression that there must be a large sack of comicality concealed within it, for well may people wonder how so many good things can emanate from one medium-sized WALLETT.

(End of Press Notices)



An Act in the Arena of "California's Pioneer Circus"

STARS OF CALIFORNIA'S PIONEER CIRCUS

As described in Advertising Pamphlets used by the Original Company

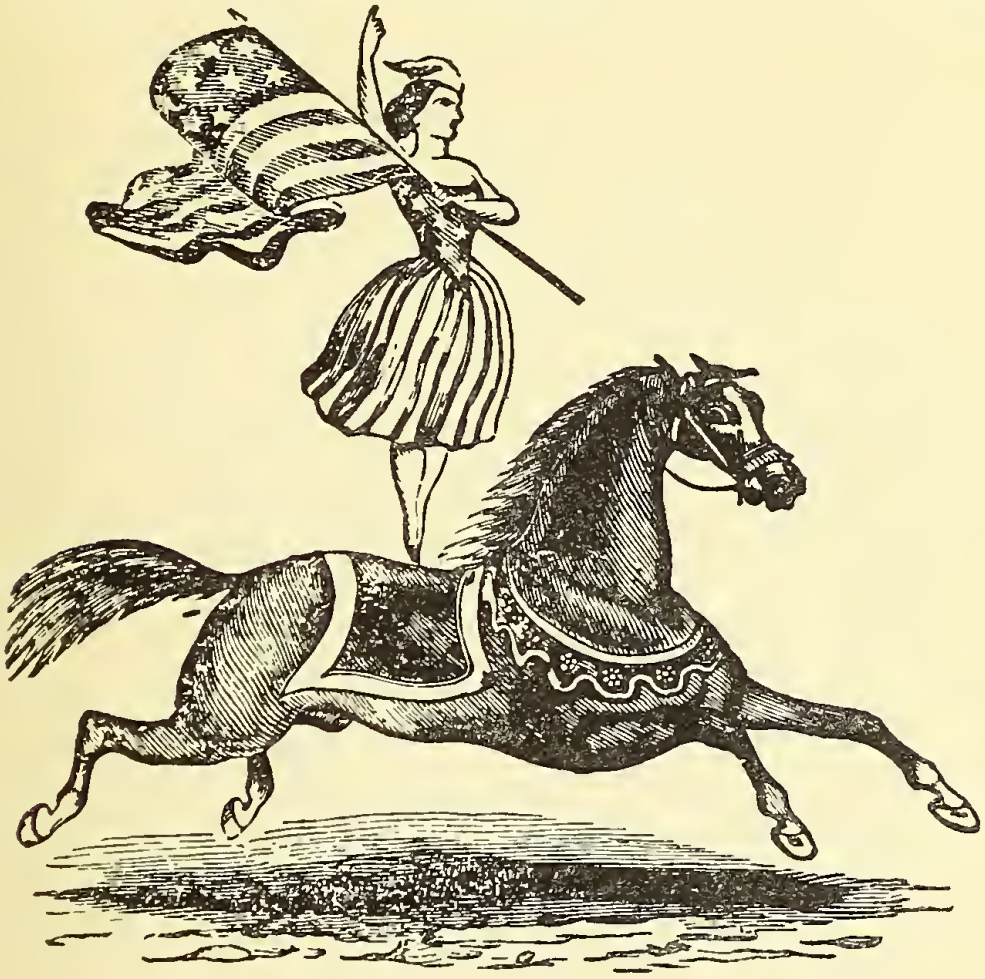
JOSEPH A. ROWE

Who sustains the important part of EQUESTRIAN MANAGER and DIRECTOR. The private duties of this situation are to arrange the order of the various performances of the day and evening—to keep a watchful eye to the appearance and general conduct of every member of the establishment, especially that of the youthful artists committed to his care. His best and most popular scenes are HISTORICAL, PASTORAL, HEROIC, PANTOMIMIC and MYTHOLOGICAL, on two, three or four horses. Among the most striking will be found the EMPEROR'S ENVOY, or Russian Messenger, in which the long wearisome route with all its perils of robbers, and assassins, snow

storms are faithfully portrayed. The envoy becomes nearly frozen; despair with iron rule possesses his almost sinking heart; when, nerving himself, and animating his sinking horses, he espies the steeple tops and minarets of gay St. Petersburgh; and the brightness of inspiring hope renews the spring of his activity, he reaches home, embraces his only boy, presenting a fine and forcible picture of joy and gratitude.

"Rise from the ground like feathered Mercury,
And vaulting with such ease into his seat,
As if an angel dropped down from the clouds
To turn and wind a fiery Pegasus,
And witch the world with noble horsemanship."

His perfect and elegant balance, during the almost lightning speed of his horse, momentarily confirms that belief, so universal among the Grecians and Romans, of the Centaurs, or the embodying of horseman and horse. This idea is soon chased from the mind by his wonderful leaping, which for rapidity, hight, distance and ease, far surpasses that of any equestrian either in Europe or America, alighting on his steed in an attitude so graceful that we could believe Canova had placed there one of his most admired statues. So perfect is he in his art, that feats which the most eminent performers dare not attempt riding forwards, he executes backwards with a courage, certainty and agility that startle even the most experienced of his profession. As he proceeds in his act the steed and rider seem inspired; rapidly increasing his daring feats he creates the most pleasing and intense excitement in the minds of the spectators, and as he gracefully leaves the arena, we are convinced that we have seen the greatest performer of this or any other country.



MISS MARY ANN WHITTAKER

The First Female Equestrian Artist in America will appear in some principal portion of the day and evening performances.

This lady, whose personal appearance and finished style of riding, convince the public that courage, modesty and talent, are here united in a most remarkable degree. This accomplished and gifted performer ranks among the very first as a DANSUESE and PANTOMIMIST, and these advantages over every other Female Equestrian enables her to cast all her competitors in the shade.

In the large circle by which this lady is cherished and surrounded in Philadelphia and other large cities, one universal sentiment prevails, and that sentiment is, that whatever may be

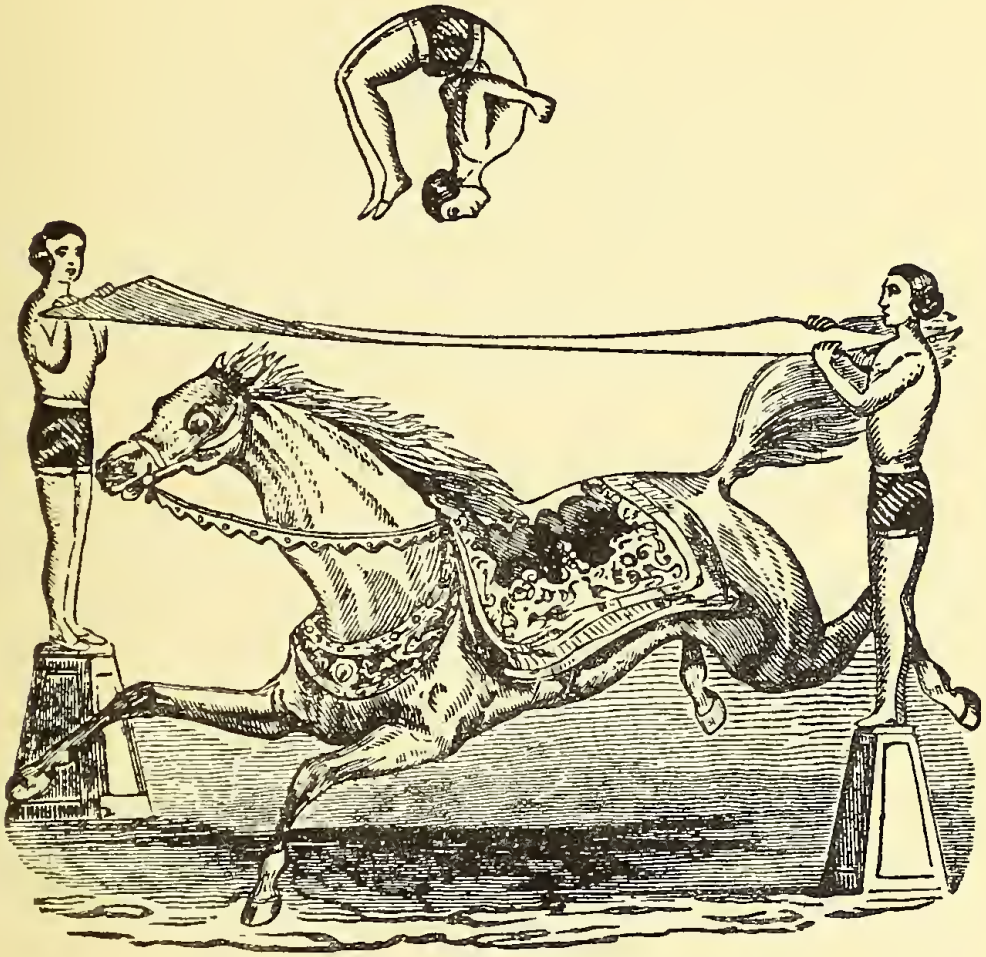
the representations Miss Whittaker undertakes, the action, deportment and manner of an accomplished lady regulate, at all times, her public exhibitions. This assertion must not be supposed to detract from her courageous self-possession in the most difficult feats ever witnessed, as in the execution of these none can surpass her. When a celebrated foreign female equestrian appeared and drew crowds, applauding ones, too, at her Tours de Force, to the surprise of the public, at the end of the stranger's brief engagement, the subject of these remarks rode on the following Monday, executing successfully more novel and surprising feats. The patrons of the Amphitheater stood amazed. To the general question, "How, and by what means, this sudden advance in equestrianism?" the lady's sole reply was, "I, as a native female rider, should scarcely have ventured upon a school so new and undaunted as this great foreign artiste so successfully introduced. The evidence I have given, of what an American female can accomplish in a short time with practice, industry and perseverance." It remains with the public to decide upon the truth and intrinsic merit of this position.

Among this lady's pantomimic scenes on a single horse, will be found the Indian Dancing Girl. The exhibition of unrequited affection—the necessity of dancing for support—the terrible knowledge that her disguised lover is the Deity of India—and her ecstacy at this great revelation, are all powerfully and skillfully wrought to the very acme of perfection.

Again; her most capital, because true, delineation of Lucette, the Village Coquette, her archness and concealment of her liking for her village swain, evince great pantomimic powers.

Also, the Sylphide of the Upper Air, is considered, in this artist's hands, a most charming poetic creation. The early contagion of love inspired by a mortal is forcibly told. Her subsequent sorrow, disgrace, and death are most truly given; while, in the earlier parts of the act, the unchecked joy of her bounding heart is gaily displayed in the most fascinating style of operatic dancing.

The conclusion of her arena acts is really startling; description alone must be at fault; except observing the final movement is founded on the Greek episode of Zanthe Driven Mad by Her Own Infuriated Horse.



WILLIAM FRANKLIN

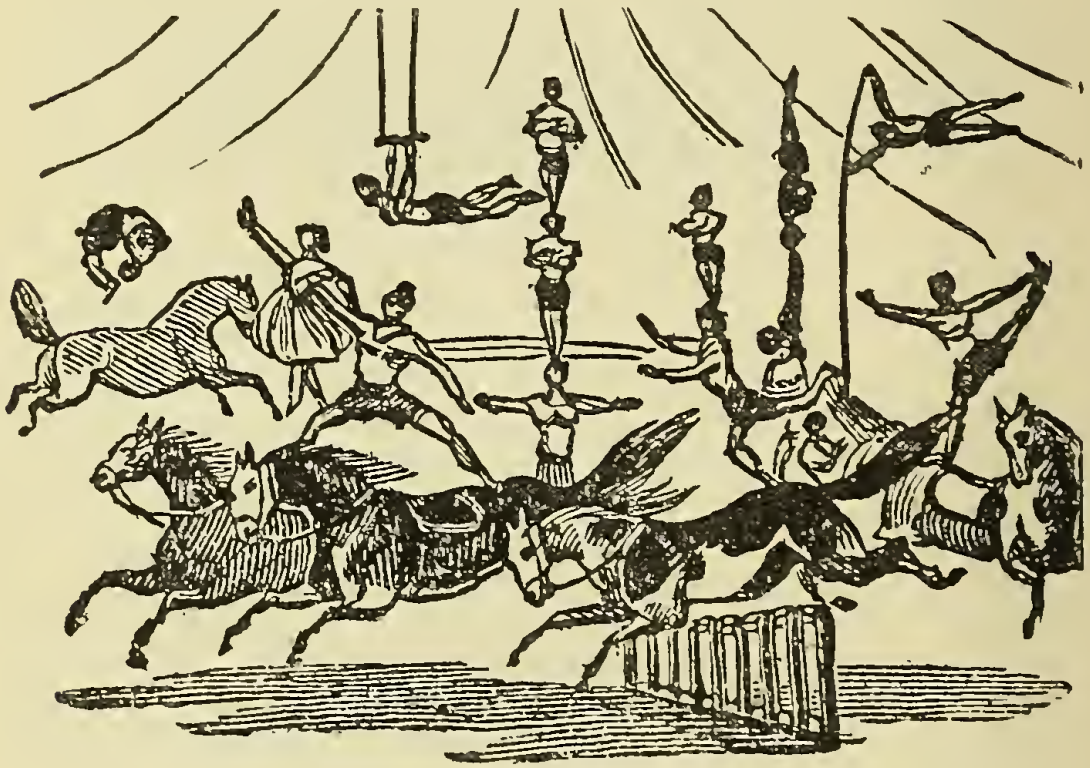
THE GREATEST EQUESTRIAN ARTIST IN THE WORLD, whose style and execution are universally pronounced the perfection of his art. So great has been the interest of the public in this wonderful youth, that our periodicals have published in their pages Incidents in his Life, which have been eagerly sought after by their patrons. Two of the most interesting were published by that veteran of the press, Major Noah, in his Weekly Messenger and Times. Franklin seems to have been nursed and taught by the graces. He bounds into the arena with an agility and grace that assures the spectator, however

great may have been his expectations, they will be more than realized. We see him

> "Safe on his steeds, as side by side they run,
> He shifts his reins and vaults from one to one,
> And now on this and now on that he flies,
> Admiring hundreds follow with their eyes!"

These are but the outlines of a scene admirably represented by this equestrian, who invariably commands the deep attention of the crowd, who regard him with respect, and award him with applause.

Rowe frequently leads the Heroic Pageants and Cavalcades that precede the other acts and scenes. He also appears in an equestrian exhibition entitled The Sorcerer of Siam, on his three steeds, Hatred, Terror, and Despair, a very striking proof of action and training.



In May the Company started a tour of the northern mines and in June and July they exhibited before the miners of the south, but a wave of hard times now engulfed the country, and though to the pioneers of the '50's the circus was almost as much a necessity as a luxury, still there was too much deflation of spirit and too much tightness in cash for even the far-famed Rowe's Pioneer Circus to escape the general blight. The six month's trip, therefore, of the Circus through the mountain counties in 1856 proved so disastrous financially that the proprietors were almost bankrupt by the time they got back to "The City" in the fall. Despite the generally bad conditions, they were forced to keep their payroll up to the previous standard of the "good times," thereby aggravating the losses that were already overwhelming the enterprise.

During the winter, with what members they could afford to carry, some performances given at the newer and lower rate of 50 cents to a dollar, were by no means remunerative. But, undaunted and undiscouraged, Rowe reorganized the Circus for the new season, with the aid of some of his financial friends, and resumed his performances.

In the latter part of March, 1857*, the performances in a "Big Top" at the corner of Post and Montgomery were found to be up to the old standard, and pleased the populace of San Francisco.

April 1st the show was again on its way for a tour of "the mountains," exhibiting first, in Sacramento for five days at the corner of Fifth and M.

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*The historian Hittell, in his History of San Francisco, paints for us in shades of grey a somber picture of the year (1857):

"As compared with the preceding eight years, 1857 (in San Francisco) was quiet and dull. There was no remarkable mining excitement; no great speculation or panic in business (but California suffered, of course from the Great Panic of '57 in the eastern financial centers); no great crime against life or property; no revolt of the people against their rulers. The city government installed by the people's party was extremely economical. Thieves and murderers stayed away for fear that the vigilance committee might resume power. Business continued to suffer under the depression that began three years before."

Third Night!

ROWE'S PIONEER CIRCUS!

CORNER FIFTH and M STREETS.

☞ The Performances of this popular Equestrian Establishment have been nightly received with the heartiest applause and the most intense admiration!

Joseph A. Rowe . Proprietor and Manager
H. W. Franklin . . . Equestrian Manager
J. R. Marshall . . . . . Riding Master
Nat Austin . . . . . Shaksperian Jester
Hiram Franklin . . . . . Clown

PRICES OF ADMISSION:

Boxes.....One Dollar. Pit.....Fifty Cents.

(Upper half of facsimile program)

Will Perform This

FRIDAY EVENING

APRIL 3d, 1857.

PROGRAMME:

GRAND STAR AND WALTZ ENTREE—Composed of eight Gentlemen, each mounted on beautiful and highly caparisoned steeds, led by Jos. A. Rowe.

HERCULEAN FEATS, with Cannon Balls, by J. E. Robinson.

TUMBLING—by the Company.

Mr. Rowe will introduce his Leaping Mare, VIRGINIA.

ZEPHYR AND FLORA, by Mr. and Mrs. Austin.—A beautiful and elegant act on two horses.

LA PERCHE EQUIPOISE—By Franklin and Fisher.

THE SHIPWRECKED SAILOR, by Hernandez.

CORDE VOLANTE, by H. Franklin—Who will hang by his hands, heels, and finish by the neck.

CORDE ELASTIC—By Madame Austin.

THE OLYMPIANS—An elegant act on two Horses, by Franklin and Hernandez.

BAR, or DEVIL ACT, by John E. Fisher—On his highly trained California steed, Wild Bill.

PRINCIPAL ACT OF HORSEMANSHIP, by James Hernandez, the greatest Equestrian Artist in the world, whose style and execution are universally pronounced the perfection of art.

MONS. D'EVANI, in his extraordinary and astonishing Contortions.

The whole to conclude with the laughable Afterpiece entitled THE TWO CLOWNS, or Dentistry on a Large Scale.

Doors open at 7 1-2—Performance to commence at 8.

(Lower half of facsimile program)

ORIGINAL LETTERS
BILLS, ETC.
OF
JOSEPH ANDREW ROWE
AND HIS
ASSOCIATES

PLACERVILLE

Where the Pioneer Circus exhibited April 8th, 1857

Placerville April 9' 1857

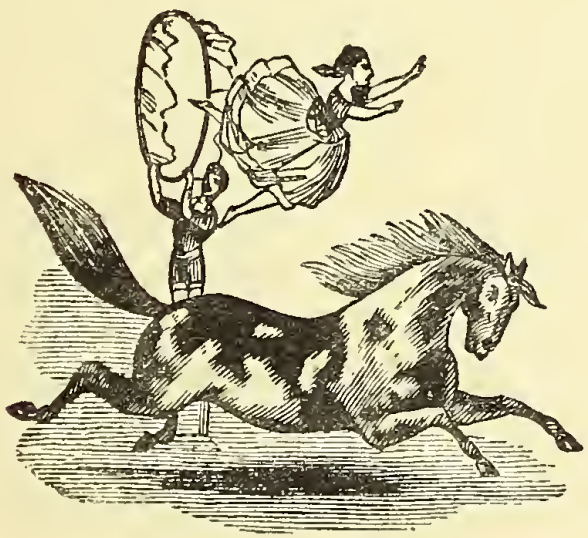
Rowe's Circus Co
San Francisco

Dear Sir;

We arrived here last night and performed to a very good house and expect a better one tonight. Tomorrow we leave for Coloma, where afterward I can't say exactly but shall be in Auburn in about a week. We are getting along very well. The boys are a very good set. Mr. Devani bid us goodbye at Sacramento being induced by offers from Mr. Risley to go with him. And I believe Jas. Robinson intends leaving by the stage tomorrow morning, most probably from the same cause. George Peoples is to join us today and then I hope we shall have no further trouble. Col. Rowe is very well except for a slight billiousness and sends his respects to you and Mr. White. A letter will reach us at Auburn.

Yours truly
Henry C. Mallony

——o——



COLOMA

The famous gold discovery town where The Pioneer Circus exhibited April 10th, 1857

Georgetown April 12' 1857

Rowe's Circus Co
S. F.

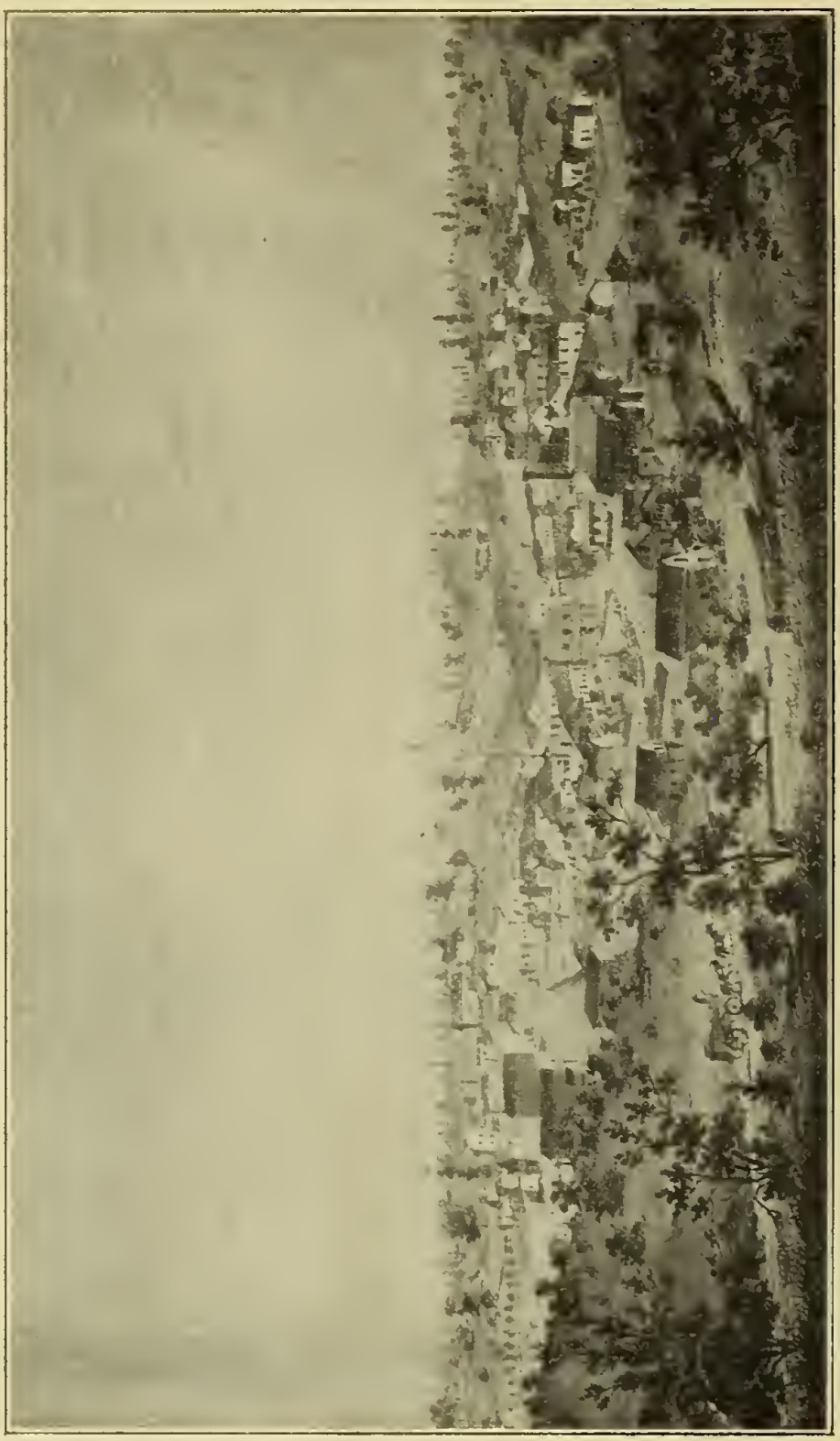
Sir:

Hernandez is anxious about a note of his which Barry and Patten hold for three hundred dollars. It is due on 14th inst. and he has not the money to send them—it will be ten days or a fortnight before there will be that much coming to him and under present circumstances it is not convenient to advance it to him. I have written to them for him requesting an extension of two weeks and today I send them the interest, but Hernandez is afraid they will not consent and will sacrifice the securities he left with them—he believes from expressions you made to him that if in your power, you would help him and he requests me to ask you if you would call on them now and if they must have the money, would you take up the note and in a fortnight it shall be sent you from his salary. We shall be at Bailey's on the 14th. Rattlesnake on 15th. Gold Hill on 16th. Auburn on 17th and Todd's Valley on 18th. We are getting along tolerably well.

Yours truly

Henry C Mallony

Treasurer Rowe's Pioneer Circus



AUBURN

Where the Pioneer Circus exhibited April 17, 1857

Georgetown April 13th, 1857.

John

I am here in Georgetown at present. Things are going on as well as we expected, although I find times rather dull in the mountains.

We will be in Nevada sometime next week. And I would like to hear from you at that place.

Our houses average from five to seven hundred dollars per night since we left San Francisco.

The Indian Rubber man has left us, we have now George Peoples in his place.

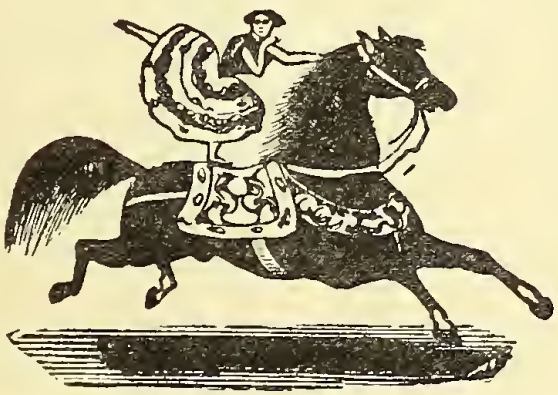
Our stock are in good order and are doing well, and we are all getting along as well as could be expected. Mr. Rowe sends his respects. My respects to all

Your brother

James Center

I received your letter
This is my second letter
to you.

——o——



GRASS VALLEY

At the time The Pioneer Circus toured this section of the State

Michigan Bluffs April 20, 1857

Rowe's Circus Co.
San Francisco

Dr Sir:

I write to inform you that we are getting along without accident and the stock is improving in condition. I enclose to you a memorandum of the receipts from the first evening in San Francisco to the present time so you will see exactly what we have done—along back the result has not been as satisfactory as might have been wished but I think appearances seem to promise better houses as we go further into the mountains. Last night was a good house and we play here again tonight. I have paid Wm. White $475.00 O'Meara & Painter $300.00—paid for a horse at Coloma $330.00, and as for the balance of expences have about kept pace with the receipts—I have paid the performers salaries as they came due and have let the men have money along as they needed it—the expenses at starting were numerous and great and the receipts small but I am in hopes to have a good report to make to you shortly. Col. Rowe left us yesterday for Iowa Hill and then to make a little tour through several places—to join us again on Wednesday or Thursday. He thinks it will be to his advantage to take a look ahead and perhaps to meet the agent—our route is picked out for the next ten or twelve days, viz. Yankee Jim on 21st, Iowa Hill 22nd or 23rd, Illinois Town 24th, Dutch Flats 25th, Red Dog 26th, Grass Valley 27th or 28th, Rough and Ready 29th, Nevada the 30th.

Respectfully
Henry C. Mallony
Treasurer

PIONEER CIRCUS DAILY CASH RECEIPTS

March	26	Receipts of House	San Francisco	581.88
"	27	do	do	497.62
"	28	do	do	258.25
"	29	do	do	287.50
"	30	do	do	439.75
April	1	do	Sacramento	472.00
"	2	do	do	312.00
"	3	do	do	304.00
"	4	do	do	287.00
"	5	do	Folsom	527.00
"	6	do	El Dorado	397.62
"	7	do	Diamond Springs	375.60
"	8	do	Placerville	718.00
"	9	do	do	331.25
"	10	do	Coloma	526.50
"	11	do	Kelseys	346.00
"	12	do	Greenfield Valley	428.00
"	13	do	Georgetown	697.00
"	14	do	Baileys	163.75
"	15	do	Rattlesnake	369.00
"	16	do	Goldhill	522.00
"	17	do	Auburn	402.00
"	18	do	Todds Valley	577.75
"	19	do	Michigan Bluffs	852.00
				$10,673.47

On hand $1450.00

NEVADA My 1st 1857

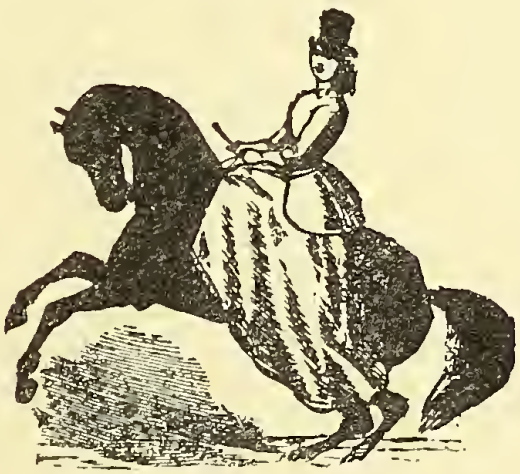
DEAR BROTHER I have roat you 5 letters and have now ansuer. Circus bisnis is pur in the mounts. The expenes is $400 every day and sum tims mor but I think we be saf—the horses is all in good oarder and Mr. Rowe tens to bisnis cloas and he wants to pay you the mony. He speaks of you evry day think you will feel hard of him—the tims is to hard hear. We have been on Bennett track all the tim sence wee staurts in Nevada we play 2 nights. First night $100.00 nixt $500.00, that is frist good night. I have not receivd cent of Mr. Rowe and Mis Rowe leve this after nune. She will give you all peticareles.

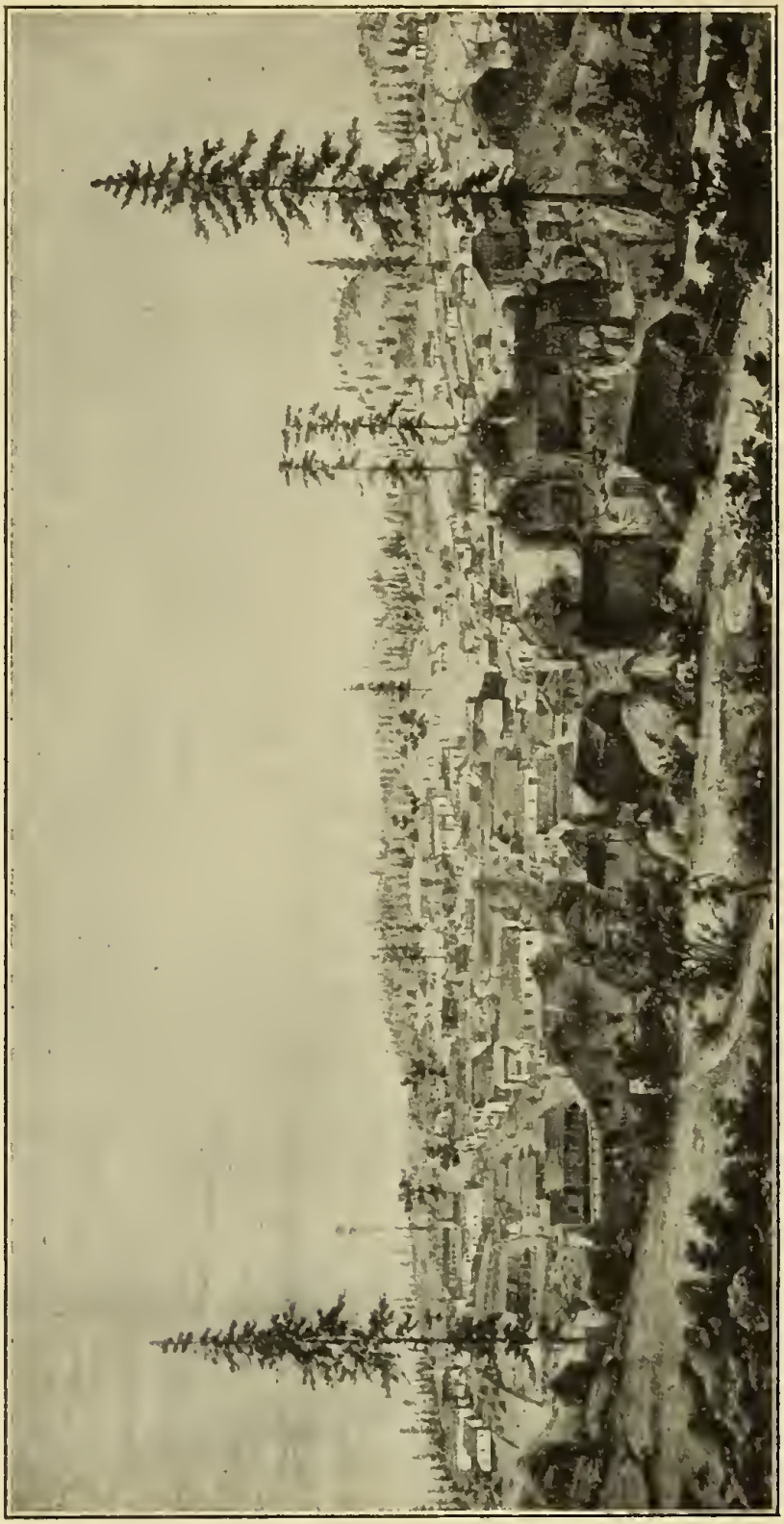
I remain your brother

J CENTER

Give Ann and David all rest regods.

—o—





NEVADA

Name later changed to Nevada City

Orleans Flat May 3rd, 1857.

Dear Sir

I imbrace evry opportunity to inform you of our progress and success. The reigion of country we have travelled through is mostly new and not so thickley settled as farther south and the towns are some distance from each other and being immediately on the track of Bennetts company, that was a true humbug, our success in a pecuniary way has not been as prosperous as we could wish and the expences beeing heavy so high up in the mountains. Hay and barley are high upon the account of high freight: our horses cost about three dollars per day and boarding the men also three dollars per day and the receipts will average five hundred or thereabouts. It is a first rate troup and gives universal satisfaction to all spectators and the performers exert evry energy to pleas and always suceede and all are perfectly united in their joint efforts. Mr. Rowe is persevering and energetic and will soon be off the track of Bennett and then our known repetation beeing well established shall do better now. Mr. Rowe is some depressed in spirits as he did expect to cancell our claim some time ago. Mrs. Rowe will give you more full particulars as she went down from Nevada and will call upon you for that purpose. All the performers are paid their waiges promptley evry week and the men evry month. Mr. Rowe was paid at Downieville and not beeing there to attend to it it went against him by default. The amount beeing one thousand dolars which he paid as it was a matter that he could not avoid. The aggregate amount of funds upon hand is some fifteen hundred dollars so you see by the manny imbaresments that we had to encounter our prospecks for the future are much more flattering.

We shall be in Mareysville on the 12th & 13th of this month so be shure to write me there. I have seen Thomas' brother he is engaged in ditch opporations and is nearly broke but is sanguine of success when there work is compleat and sends his kindest regards to you and David.

Truely yours

James Center

MARYSVILL May 13' 1857

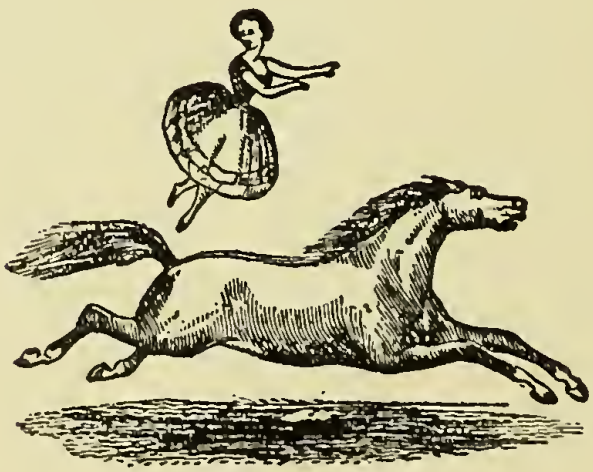
DEER BROTHER

I luck for latter but I was dispoint I have rout you duzsians of latters but nowe answar. I have sent you team of hoss they are good, have bread them on mounts. Mr. Rowe has not paid expeness but I have redust Davin to your horeses $2.50 to $3.00 dollars per day. We are the seam. Times is gattings batter. In one city about four feet snow the slusys rainny May. Caul a halt hear. I have not recived cents from company. This sow far is paid on boat this is the black hoss and I sent Davin yours of Mr. Rowe.

I sen my respecks
Good bye Anny David

JAMES CENTER

——o——



Amount of Salaries & Wages Now Due by Rowes Pioneer Circus

May 31. 1857. P. M.

$4332.74

Jas Hernandez	$ 922.57
H. C. Mallony	219.00
Hiram Franklin	611.20
J. E. Fisher	220.20
J. R. Marshall	674.47
Nat Austin	157.12
Mrs. Austin	71.40
Geo. Peoples	305.72
James Robinson	128.51
Jas. F. Angel	30.00
A. C. Keyt	62.00
L. Bell	17.00
Wm. Bunting	175.50
Chas Brown	59.00
Beck	115.00
Chas Nathan	139.00
Highlinger	145.00
John Anthis	110.00
Fred Anthis	50.00
Mundville	120.00
	$4332.74

Salsberry	$ 31.50
Robt Brown	9.50
D. Black	30.33
Jas. Center	220.00
Oscar Barr	38.00
Paddy Lundy	32.00
M. Clarkey	23.25
Wm. Brannan	38.00
Paddy Miles	88.00
Rhodes	34.66
Jas. Poinsett	23.00
Parker	12.33
Gillett	7.83
	$4921.14
	773.13
E. E.	$4148.01

Henry C. Mallony
Treasurer

Cash on hand	$ 923.08
Less bill tonight	149.95
	$ 773.13

Oroville June 5 1857

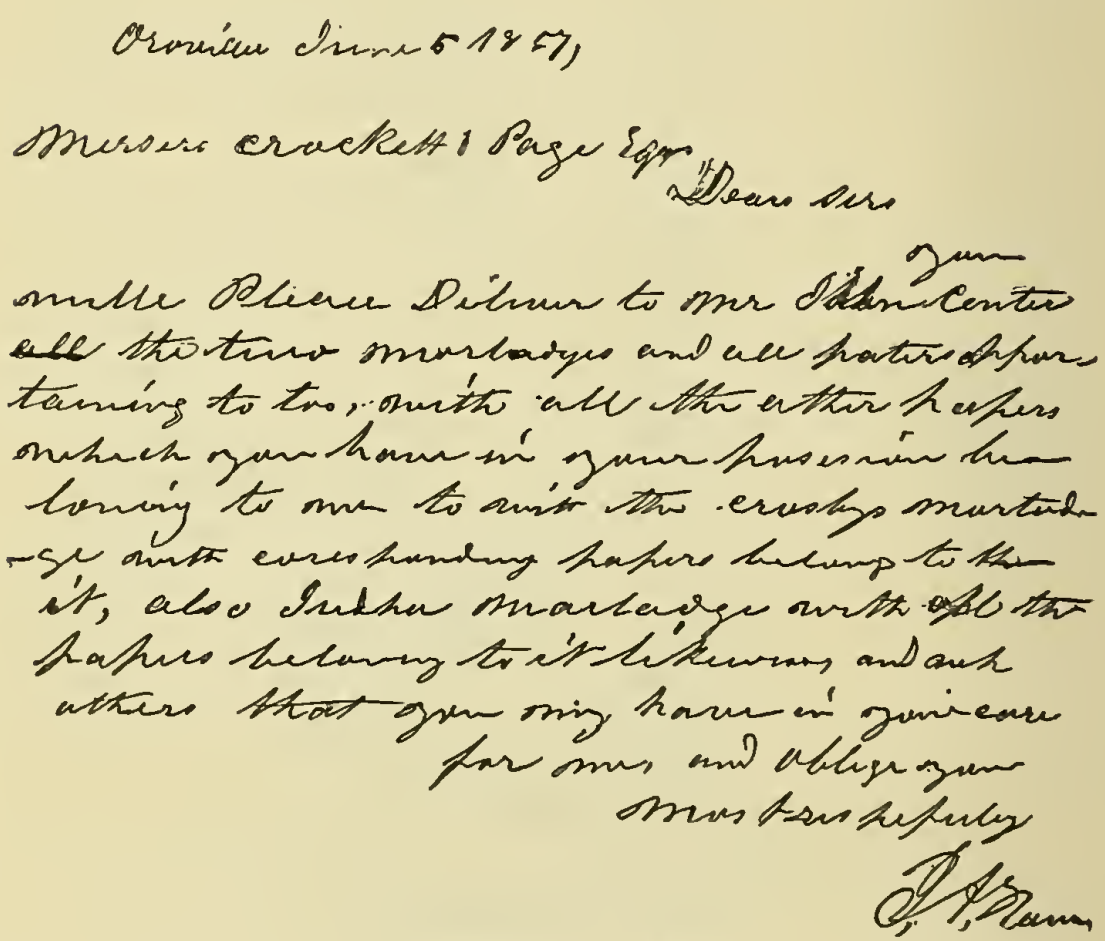
Messrs Crockett & Page Lyrs

Dear Sirs

You will please deliver to Mr. John Center the two mortgages and all papers appertaining to them, with all the other papers which you have in your possession belonging to me with the Crosbys mortgage with coresponding papers belonging to it. Also Judha mortgage with all the papers belonging to it likewise, and such others that you may have in your care for me, and oblige yours

Most respectfuly

J. A. Rowe



(Facsimile copy of above letter)

Horse Town June 4th-1857

My Dear Brother

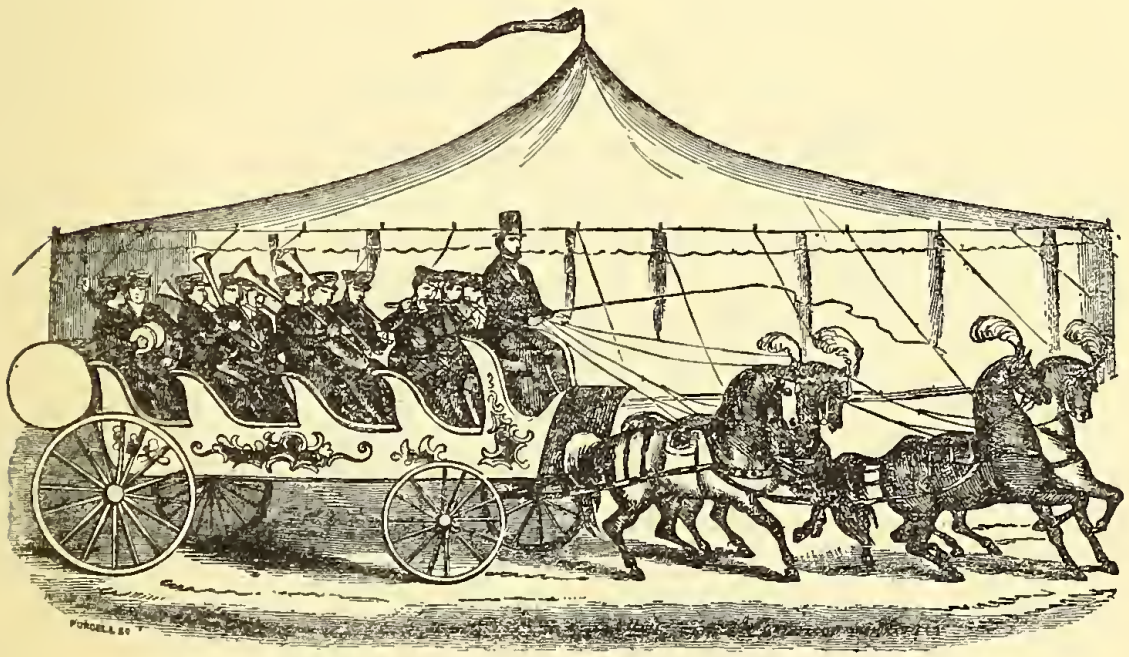
We have stopt at this place tonight Mr. Doyle and I. Tomorrow go to Marysvill. Take stage to Sacramento. Then home. I am going to make Rowe mortgage his property in Los Angeles for $18 or 20 thousand dollars. I can effect a loan for him in San Francisco for that amount.

Then he can have plenty of funds to pay off all demands on his circus, have it free and plenty of money to go on with even if business should be at some places dull. I will be in Marysvill on the 11th of the month. Keep all right. My respects to all

Your brother

John Center

—o—



Oroville June 6th. 1857,

Mr Canter

Dear Sir

Since you left here I have thought of one more one would be as well for you to attend to in San Fran- at Omeara Painter, Printers, there is a great- many of my cuts large and small, and cut for printing large and small Bills, which would be as well that you should get them also, for which purpus I have enclosed within an order to those gentlemen for them to deliver all the cuts to you. and believe me yours Ever truly & most grateful

J. A. Rowe

tell Mrs Rowe dont worry about me for I entend to do if God spars me what is Right I feel some what lonesom since you left here but that is nothing it will soon pass

adieu J. A. R.

(Facsimile copy of an original letter written by Joseph A. Rowe. See type transcription on page number 57.)

Oroville June 6th 1857.

Mr. Center

Dear Sir

Since you left here I have thought up one more thing which would be well for you to attend to in San Francisco, at O'Meara and Painter, Printers. There is a great many of my cuts large and small, wood cuts for printing large and small bills. Which would be as well that you should get them, also for which purpose I have enclosed within an order to the gentlemen for them to deliver all the cuts to you and believe me

Yours ever truly and most grateful

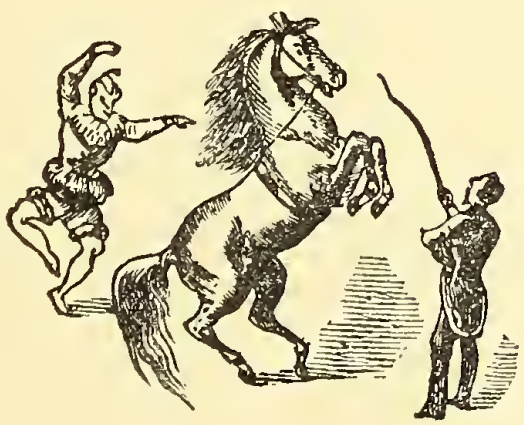
J. A. Rowe

Tell Mrs. Rowe don't worry
about me for I intend to do,
if God spares me what is right.
I feel somewhat lonesome since you
left here but that is nothing—it
will soon pass.

Adieu

J. A. R.

——o——



MARYSVILLE June 15, 1857

JAS. A. ROWE

TO JOHN CENTER CR.

For Amt. paid Jas. Poinsett for Services as teamster being in full to date		$ 18.00
" Amt. pd. Wm. Brannigan for do		20.33
" " " D. Black for do		40.33
		$ 78.66
For Amt. pd Advertisers Bill at Michigan Bar	6.75	
" " do in Fiddletown	6.50	
" " do in Drytown	9.50	
" " do Jas Angell	2.50	25.25
		$103.91

BILL OF SALE

Horse Bucheo

J. A. Rowe

Colusa 11 June 1857.

Sold this day to Jas. Center one large sorrel horse, known by the name of Bucher, with white hind feet, neroly foundered for the sum of three hundred dollars the same being paid for in full the title which I warent and defend,

Colusa June 11th, 1857.

J. A. ROWE.

Sacramento June 15th 1857

Dear Brother

I send this with the bearer who has been traveling with the company. I have attached everything in Marysville belonging to the company. Everything is in the hand of the sheriff with a confession of judgment by Rowe which I made him do. The sale comes off on Friday the 19th of June, being 6 days notice. I am wating for the advertising team to be brought in here. I sent Baker after it with an execution. I cannot come down until I find it—it is divle take the last here. I think I am ahead but I must see to it myself—do the best you can. I ought to be home to attend to the harvest and will be soon as possable—

My respects to Ann, David all the rest, I remain

Your affectionate brother,

John Center

——o——

Sacramento June 17th 1857

Dear Brother

I cannot come up today I have the team in Toll's stable to be sold on Monday 1st. I take down the horse to the bay today as you know the harvest must be seen to. I go down today at 2 o'clock, tomorrow at 4 o'clock I will get on the boat for Sacramento and then by stage to Marysville. I will be with you on Thursday by 12 o'clock at noon. You may depend on me. Keep everything right, go and see Judge Field, deliver him this note which I enclose. If you think of anything needed go to the telegraph office at Marysville at 12 o'clock noon on Wednesday. I will wait at the office in San Francisco to answer any communication you may have (direct to John Center, Telegraph Office) I will be there at that time and I will send you some questions to know how things is. Attend at 12 noon Wednesday, say nothing to anyone, keep all in good order, and put your horses in as good order as you can. Hear them all but say nothing to anyone. I will make all come right if I can. Make the men earn their money by working at everything that is needed.

Your affectionate brother

John Center.

Chinese Camp June 19th 1857

John Center

Dear Sir

I write to you according to promise regarding the salary and engaging of the people. We will not engage any man that was in your company at any price, and we expect the same of you in return. The salaries have been very exorbitant and we are now going to reduce all ours. We can have them if we both choose, at our own price, and at a price we can live at.

Franklin is not worth over $75 per week, Fisher $40, Nat Austin & wife we had two years ago when they were both new to the country for $100 per week, and they certainly ought not to be worth now over $80 per week. Hernandez ought to be worth I suppose about $90 or $100.

If all work at those salaries there will be a chance to live. If not, there is no use in employing our capital to build them up. The business has now got to be managed very economically to make it pay, the way the country is. We are not making a dollar for ourselves. I assure you. We have to pay it all out in salaries.

Please answer this directed to Columbia.

Yours with respect

H. C. Lee

North American Circus.

——o——

Chinese Camp June 19th 1857

Mr. John Center

Dear Sir

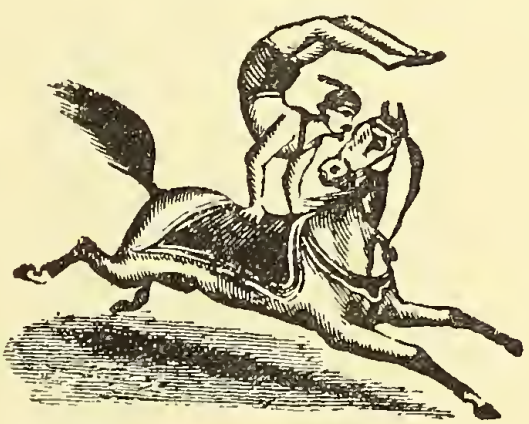
I am requested by Mrss Lee & Bennett to write and inform you that you may not bee under any fear that they will hire any of the men formerly attached to Rowes Circus Co. As they would not under any circumstances have one of them, so you can hire them at your own price if you intend traveling the company and you can also have young Raphael if you want him, the company are doing a good business, but paying too much for saleries to the men, I think they intend discharging some as soon as they can pay them off, which will not be long if the business continues as good— Please answer me at Columbia and greatly oblig your friend, etc

Onick Jas & Son

P. S. Mrss L & B desires me to request of you, that in case of their reducing the salaries of any of their men which are too high, that you will not hire any of them by so doing you both can reduce your expenses, which is very much needed now to get along, I think both companys have been working only for their men. An answer to this will much oblige yours

Onick Jas & Son

——o——



MARYSVILLE

In this early California City the entire effects of The Pioneer Circus came under a sheriff's attachment

Orovill June Fri. 20-1857

Dear Brother

I came down from Shasta last night Rowe is here yet sick the Blue Divels is the matter I think he will get Better but he was very bad this morning I thought he was Dying but now better I go to Shasta to night to attach it and sell it out or bring them to terms so as to keep the property free from the debts of Rowe and his men he has consinted to give me up every thing and I have to look out so as to bring them to terms by my attaching first and to do it so as not to stop it if I can but I am bound to attach first then I have got them fast I will be back as soon as I can before the 10 of June shure Do the best you can keep things right My respects to Ann & all the rest

Your affectionate Brother

John Center

——o——

San Francisco June 23-1857

Dear Brother

You will find a Long Red Bill description bill which I brought down with me wrote on with a pencil I think I left it up in the Harness Room some where I think find it if you can & sind it in on the first boat to me at the Boat Office I will find it there—as I wait for it so as to get the Bills printed and sent up

Your

John Center

Marysville
June 24″ 1857

Dear Sir

Enclosed you will find execution as per Telegraphic request, with endorsement of the amount collected by the Sheriff of Sacramento County namely. $610—I was unable, owing to some delay on the part of our Sheriff to make return of the execution, to endorse the amount of the sale made by him. If however you will wait I will ascertain the amount and send the same to you by Wells Fargo & Co tomorrow evening when you can make the endorsement

Yours Etc
Stephen J. Field
per Henry K. Mitchell

——o——

Marysville
June 26″ 1857

Dear Sir

I enclosed to you on the 24″ inst an execution in your case against Rowe. I was unable at that time to send to you the amount collected by the Yuba County Sheriff. I ascertained from him to day the amount of the sale which I herewith send to you

Amt of judgment.....	$9,515.45
Amt of Sale.....	$8,394.30
Costs & Disbursements.....	615.70

From the above statement you will be enabled to make upon the execution now in the hands of San Francisco Sheriff the proper endorsement

Yours Etc
Stephen J. Field
per Henry K. Mitchell

San Jose July 22d 1857

Mr. John Center

Dear Sir

I write you acording to promise all things go smoothly our business has been light till to night We took $176. in the red woods $131. at St. Clara $443. this night so you see we took more at this place than I put it down for I dont think the next 3 days will be much I shall not go down to Santa Cruse we go from this to the Silver Mines 12 miles from that place to San Jose Mission 24 miles then to Haywards where their has never been a Circus then travell part of the Way to Stockton we shall be in Stocton Monday next Jim wants five of the lock Chains sent to Stocton two of the long ones and 3 short ones I will let you hear from me from Stocton hoping this will find you well as it leaves me I remain truly yours

H. W. Franklin

——o——

Stocton July 27th 1857

Mr. Center

Dear Sir

I receaved your letter this morning with the chains our Business was light last weak but after this town we shall do well enclosed I send you draft for $255 I will sind you the rest tomorrow as I am in great hast now Yours truly

H. W. Franklin

Stockton July 28th /57

Mr. Center
Dear Sir

We arrived here safe and sound and all well after a hard Drive Sunday, the Stock Stood it first rate and now we will Show Some of the knowing ones that we can get along among ourselves Peacebly and quietly without watching. There is one thing if the Old Horse Damon has A. colt I, am agoing to claim him and if Wild Bill has one Fisher will claim that, we have done very well Since we have been out but will do better when we get in the Mountains nothing more all the Boys Send their kind regards to you So I will dry up yours Respectfully

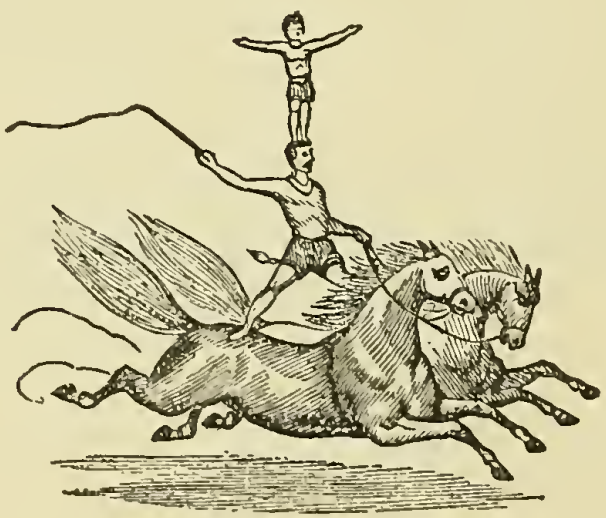
George Peoples

Lee & Bennetts Boss Groom has served an Attachment on them for his Saliree $2100. in Nevada The Sheriff has Served on the South American they are in Sac--City. Risley has layed up in Sac City So you See the Devil is to Pay with Some of them

Yours & etc.

George Peoples

——o——



Chineese Camp 6th Aug

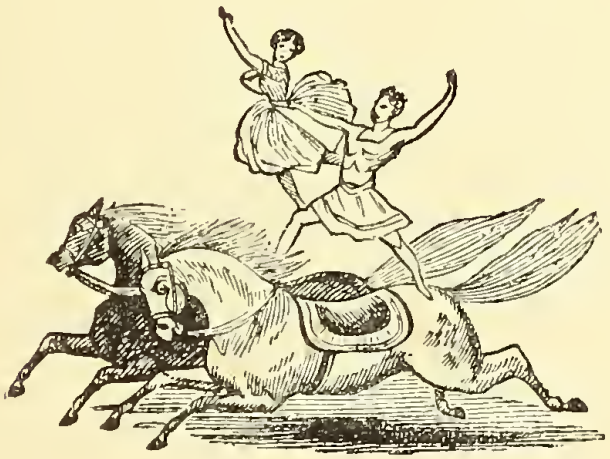
John Center Esq.

Dear Sir

I should of wrote you before but have been waiting to see if I could send any good news but I dont see any possabillaty of our doing any better than we have been doing which is bad enoughf God knows we have not paid expences sense we have been out and I am afeard we shall do no better in future the country is all dryed up their is no money I sent you the Rent from Stockton I allso sent you last weaks rent yesterday it was as soon as I could get it the boys cant get any money at all to day I have no funds except what will get us out of town I have refused to let any one have money to day as I cant spar it Sallery day is comeing and I must look out for it I pay every Monday so you see they begin to get disscontented all work and no money I think under the circimstances you had better lower the rent say to fifty a day it will show them that you are disposed to give and take but do as you think best about it write me at Columbia we are their Monday and Tuesday all are well hoping this will find you the same I remain

truly yours

H W Franklin



Columbia August 10th, 1857.

John Center Esq

Dear Sir

I had intended to write to you at least every week after I started but at first was verry busy and wished to hear from the company how they were doing before writing, as I was afraid they would not make much as Lee & Bennett had sent the Little South American Circus ahead of us at $1.00 and 50c, so as to spoil our business, but they made nothing and we are likely to do the same. As the boys have been working hard giving a good performance and not making anything for themselves and they deserve all the praise for doing all in their power to keep up the circus when it was doing them no good further than making board. Every one who has seen the circus speaks well of it and say it is the best ever given in California; but money is very scarce and even at low prices people can hardly afford to go. I have done all I could to make them popular and bring the people out but it is hard to make them believe it is not another humbug. I have been to Mok Hill, Railroad Flat, West Point and came back to see how they were doing. I find them all in good spirits working hard and in hopes of striking better business soon. Hiram Franklin has paid every man, myself included, and I believe used some of his own money. But Mok Hill will give us a good house, and we may do better. Hiram told me to say he had not sent you this week's pay, and appeared to fell very bad to think he had not got it to send. We are going to put down the prices and try it and if that does not do I do not know what will. The stock is in very good condition and James is taking good care of everything. My team is doing very well and I assure you I take good care of them. I will write you from Jackson or Sacramento,

Very truly yours,

I. Alexander

COLUMBIA August 11th 1857

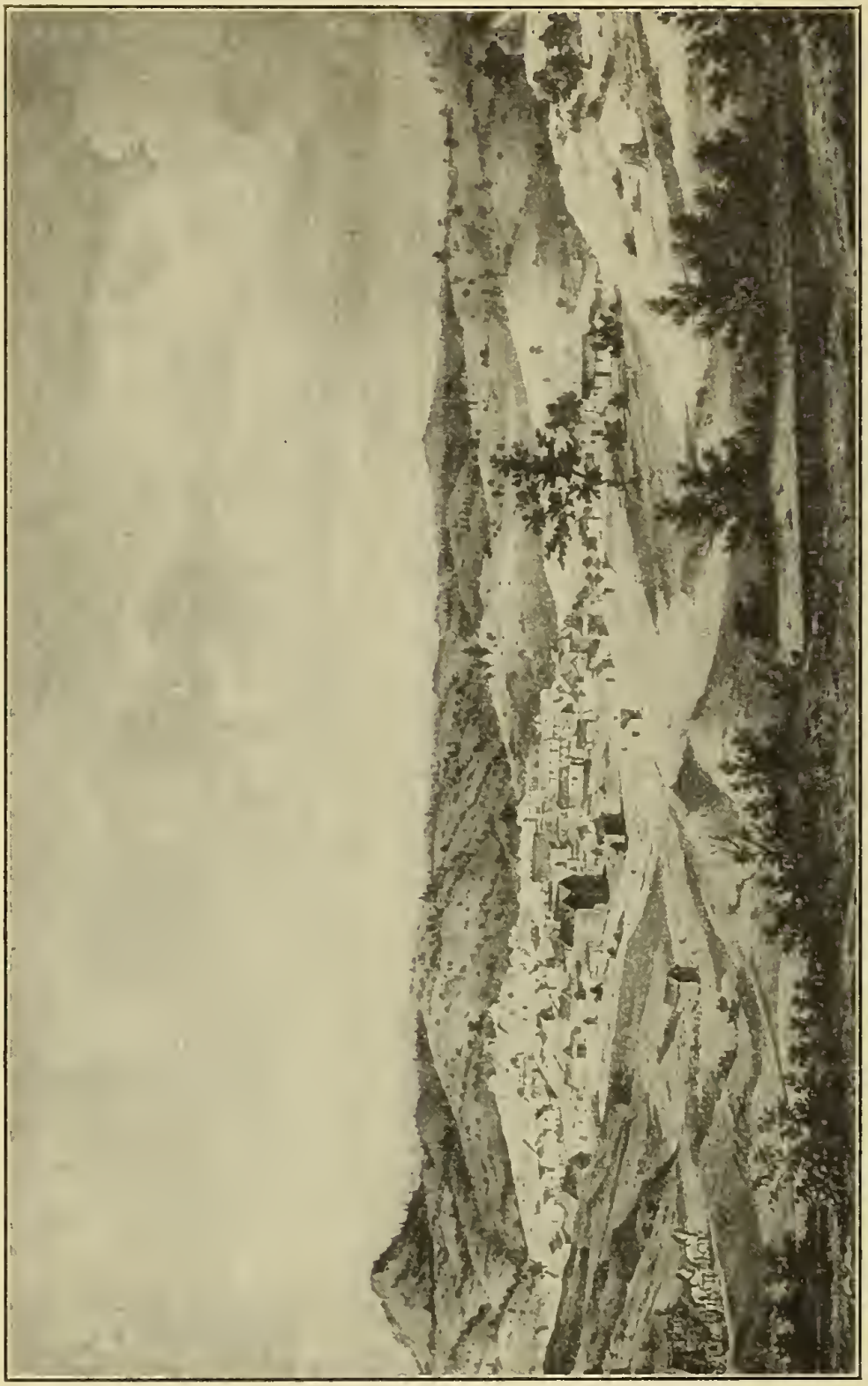
MR JOHN CENTER

DEAR SIR

Yours came to hand this afternoon it seams that fate is against us if we perform on Sunday we get fined when other companys perform on Sundays no one takes any notice of them we have been fined every Sunday we have performed the first Sunday fifty dollars the last 150 so I Shant try to perform again on Sunday if I cant come to some arrangement with the judge of the district now I dont know what to do Alexander is hear he has come back for instruction he says the country is so dry he is afeared to go up in the northern mines, if we get it up their and get stuck it would be bad so if the Business dose not improve I shall run it to Sacramento and play two nights and so on to the bay and lay up till fall, I paid every debt to day except the rent and am 24 dollars behind the receats, I have put the price down to night and I think we shall have a Big house Lee & Bennette has guted the country humbuged the people till they are sick and tired of a circus I toald you before we left the Bay that I did not think we should do much But I did think we could get a living out of it but I see no hope of it, all the country is burnt up the people are poor and tiard of being humbuged you cant make them beleave but that we are just like all the rest till they see the performance then they say it is the best they ever saw perhaps we could get a fall trip that would pay as we give such good Satisfaction let me hear from you at "MONK HILL" Alexander will write to you and give the route let me know what you think of our going up north it is no satisfaction to me to keep it going if we cant make some money for ourselves if it was ever so little except for the name of the thing I showed your letter to all the boys they say all right if we can take it as soon as I get the rent in hand I will send it to you.

Yours with respect

H W FRANKLIN



MOKELUMNE HILL
Mentioned in letters as "Monk Hill"

Sacramento Augt 11th 1857

Friend Centers

Dear Sirs

You will pleas remove those Waggons of Messers Lee & Bennett in some other plase we have bought them of him dont let any one have them without our order from us We will pay you for your troble All you want is to remove them if only two feet this makes our claim good We have a Bill of Sale of Said Waggons Do this and much oblige Yours in hast

John Hutchings
per Thomas Hutchings

——o——

Sam Anndrass Augist 13

Dr Brother

I have rout you and now ansur our stock luks weell our luk is been poor sence wee gon out Wee will be in Sacramento week from to Day I Lok for you ther

Think that Fisher tuk my latters out there is non mony in som tims I think you will cum to Sacramento Wee will play 2 Day thar it is tu hout hear been 1027 in Shad I wanted to got out of hear give David and Ann my Love

My Respets to all

James Center

California State Telegraph Co.

OFFICE,—101 MERCHANT STREET.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

Write Plain.—Use no Figures.—Give full Address.

OFFICE HOURS, 8 A.M. to 9 1-2 P.M. SUNDAY, 9 to 11 A.M., 3 to 5 P.M.

Sacramento Aug 22nd 1857,
11-5 h a M.

To Henry Baker

Have package of
Circus bills sent here tonight
by Wells Fargo Express
they are at my place
David knows them

Jno Centre

Direct Abram W Franklin's
Pioneer Circus
Sacramento Cty

(Facsimile copy of an early California telegram.)

Sacramento August 27

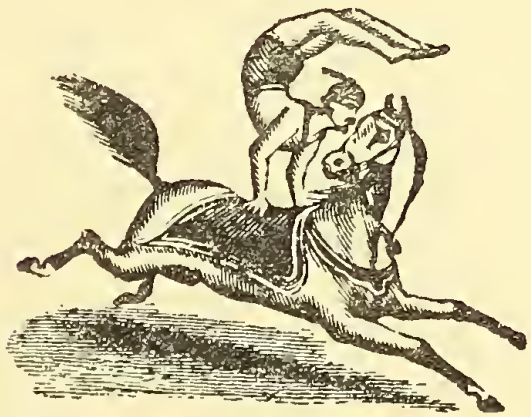
J. Center

Dear Sir

Lee & Bennett will be at Folsom on Tuesday and Rivers was here last night and told me that they would not Perform either in Stockton or San Francisco I suppose you have made A Bargain with the Company to open in Frisco as they sent word to McClosky this morning; but if you want to have it travel this Fall you can Get all the company you want and be sure of your pay as when Lee & Bennett Breaks up there will be People out of A Situation Glad to travel I will Go and See Lee on Tuesday and Find out what they are going to do and everything I can and let you know all about it

Truly Yours

John Alexander



JOSEPH A. ROWE
in AC/C with JOHN CENTER

Amt. of indebtedness June 12th 1857		$ 9515.45
2 1/2 mos. interest to Sept 1/57 2 1/2 per mo.		594.71
		$10110.16
Execution Sheriffs fees in Marysville		610
Mr Rowe hotel bill		13
Paid back wages to teamsters		78.66
Execution Sheriffs fees Sacramento		59.40
Tolls bills horse keep		156.75
Bill of grain		25
Bakers bill traveling for advg. waggon		75
Board of men & wages in Sac City 5. days		49.50
Mr Rowe hotel bill		18
Expenses on steam boat to San Francisco		47
5 mos mages for James Center 100$		500
		$ 1632.31
		$11742.47

Cr.

Sales in Marysville waggon	$245	
" " Sac City 4 horses	462.50	
" " San Francisco 2 do	300	
Amt of cash recd from company	1420	2427.50
		$ 9314.97
Paid Geo S. Banks stabling horses	70.	
" J. Berry & Co bill of repairing waggons	45.50	
" Nelson & Doble bill shoing horses	112.75	

MEMORANDUM—KEEP CIRCUS HORSES &C

Sept 1/ 1857

EXPENCES OF KEEPING HORSES

	Whit horses from My 30 to		
Aug 15	78 days @ 50/100 each . .	78.00	
June 14	To steamboat Swan brought		
	1 horse from Colusa . . .	10.00	
	Expences for horse & Medisen .	7.00	
	do " " Sac . . .	3.00	
June 16	Passage on Eclipse	5.00	
	To keeping Bucher from 17 June		
Sept 1	To 75 days @ 50 cents per day .	37.50	
	To keeping Vergenis from 30 June to		
Sept 1	62 days @ 50	31	
	1 cream horse from 7 July to		
Sept 1	To keeping 55 days @ 50 . .	27.50	
	" repairing 3 waggons at Barry		
	& Co 19.50	58.50	
	" shooing 25 horses @ 3$ each	75.00	
	To keeping horses from 7 July to 19 July to wit		
	To 25 horses 2 days 50		
	" 14 " 4 " 56		
	" 25 " 6 " 150		
	256 @ 50	128.	
	Pady 6 days work @ 40.00 . .	9.23	
	Bill Brannan 6 days @ 40 .	9.23	
	Gill 6 " @ 40 .	9.23	
	Board 3 men 18 days @ 6 . .	15.40	
	Keeping 6 horses from 25 Ag to		
Sept 1	To Keeping 25 horses 6 days		
	150 @ 50	75.00	
			578.59
	Board 4 men 6 days 24 @ 6 . .	20.50	
	Keeping horse at Suisun . . .	30.	
	Coste brining down	25.00	
	Medisians at Suisun	7.87	
			$661.96

SACRAMENTO Sept. 3rd

COL. JOS. A. ROWE

DEAR SIR.

The Election passed off quietly here Yesterday and was very close Stanley is Ahead of Bowie so far as counted—Weller and Probably the whole Democratic Elected I had expected to hear from you or Franklin in regard to going on with the Circus but nothing coming I suppose you have Stopped for the Present, but there is A good chance to make A trip this fall Yet and Still A Better Chance for the Spring, you have it all your own way and can Get Any and all the People You want the only trouble is the management if you could only get A GOOD BUSINESS MAN STRICTLY HONEST to take charge of it there would be no danger as the only failures has been through MISMANAGEMENT and Drunken Managers. I am doing nothing and would Like A Situation but would not Advise Starting Did I not See A Good chance for You to make money but by taking hold of the Business this fall yourself you can hold it next Spring and have it your own way the Best way this fall would be A Percentage and equal shars so you would see what was taken in and PAID OUT as it is very easy to Say. PAID So & So 100 etc. ON A BOOK But is it PAID OUT: now that is the only Point where A Manager has A Good chance to Swindle: but You will See this Point at once and Gaurd against it: the Performers are all right they do their Business take what Salary they can Get and Leave the rest to the Manager. THIS is A fair Statement of the Circus Business so if you Go into it you can be Governed accordingly Please let Me know what the Prospects are as I must do something for Myself Soon

Very Truly Yours

Direct Golden Eagle JOHN ALEXANDER

AN AGREEMENT

TESTIFYING TO THE RE-ORGANIZATION OF THE PIONEER CIRCUS

This Agreement, made the twelfth day of September, One thousand eight hundred and fifty seven, A. D. by and between John Center of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, of the first part and Nat. Austin, (Manager) James Hernandez, James Melville and George Peoples, all of the City, County and State aforesaid, of the second part, Witnesseth: The said part of the first part covenants and agrees to and with the party of the second part to furnish for the purpose of giving public exhibitions throughout this State, all the paraphrenalia and properties connected with the Circus known as the "Pioneer Circus," now belonging to said party of the first part, including Tent, wagons, horses (both ring and draught horses), and all and every property appertaining thereunto which are now in use in said Circus, and also the party of the first part agrees to furnish his agent to act as Treasurer free from any charge for salary to the parties of the second part, and also to furnish one head ostler free from any charge for salary to the parties of the second part. And the parties of the second part hereby covenant and agree to and with the party of the first part, to travel with said Circus, giving exhibitions of the usual character, throughout such portions of the State as may be deemed advisable by the Manager and for such term of time as may be deemed profitable by the parties hereinto agreeing, the proprietor hereby reserving to himself the right to terminate this agreement whenever he shall deem it unprofitable, and each of the parties of the second part agrees, each for himself to furnish their personal services free from any charge as against the party of the first part personally and Mr. Austin also agrees to furnish the services of his wife Mrs. Austin, and Mr. Melville also agrees to furnish the services of his wife and son, (Mrs. & Master Melville), all free from any charge against said party of the first part personally.

It is also mutually agreed by and between the parties hereto, each for himself, that the Agent of the party of the first part, Mr. David Center, shall be charged with the collection of the money that may be received for the aforementioned exhibitions, and he is hereby authorized and directed by each and every one of us to distribute and pay out such receipts in the following manner: viz. Firstly, he shall pay all current expenses of said Circus, including board and lodging of all parties attached to the Circus, as also board and lodging of horses, salaries of teamsters, musicians, and all other parties attached to the Circus, except the salaries of the parties of the second part, and all other general and incidental expenses attending the proper management of a Circus. Secondly, he shall pay to the parties of the second part the following salaries respectively set opposite their names, viz. to N. Austin, for himself and wife, One hundred dollars for each and every week, to James Melville, for himself, wife and son, One hundred dollars for each and every week; to James Hernandez for himself Fifty dollars for each and every week; and George Peoples for himself Fifty dollars for each and every week.

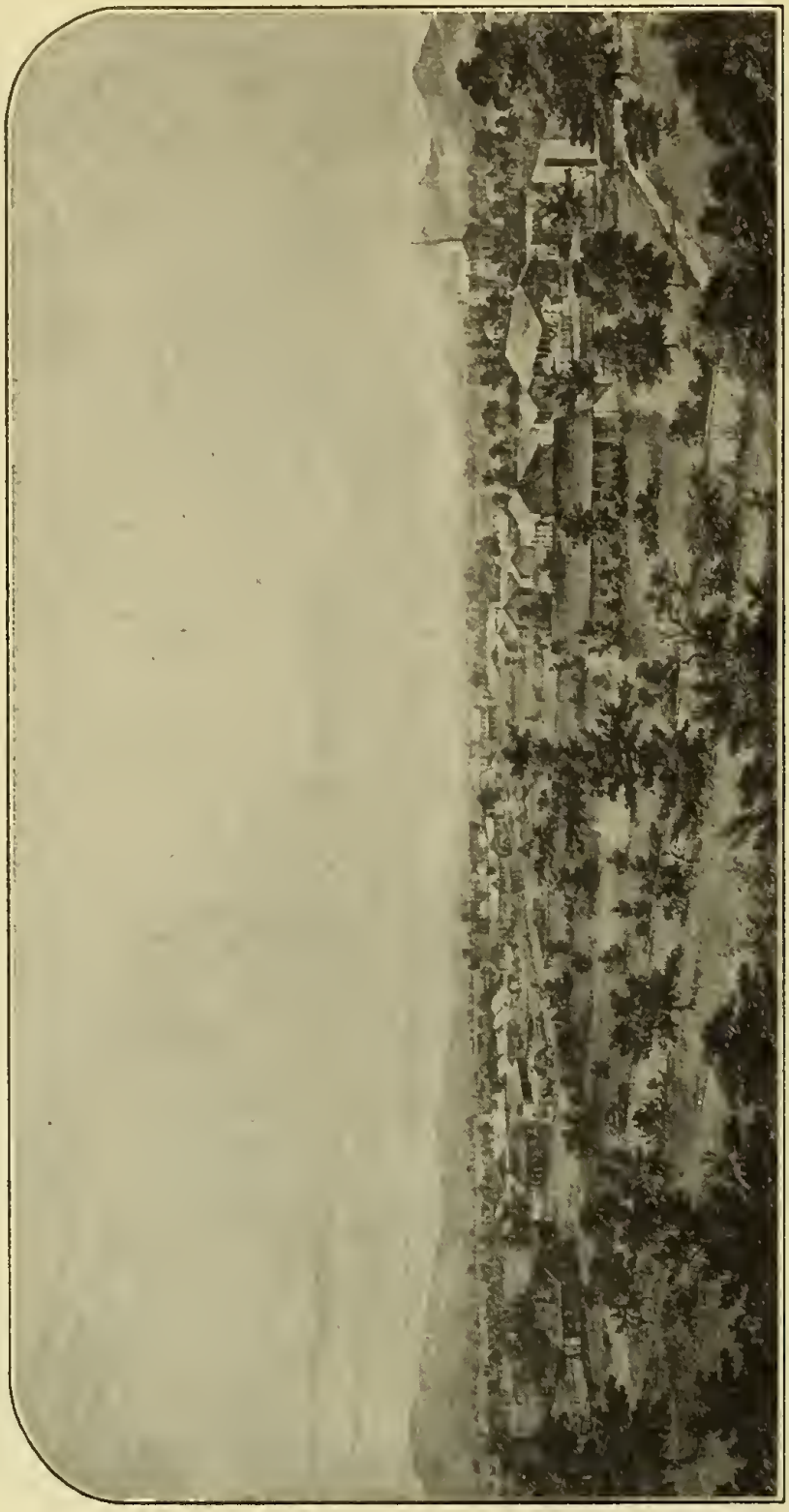
Thirdly: he shall pay to John Center, the party of the first part, the sum of Three hundred dollars, as compensation to him for the use of the aforementioned circus appurtenances, for each and every week from the date of this agreement. And lastly, if there should remain any money in the treasury after disbursing the above amounts, he shall divide the same into five equal parts and pay over one of said parts (or one fifth of the whole amount) to each of the five parties to this agreement, viz. John Center, N. Austin, James Hernandez, James Melville and George Peoples. But it is also agreed and understood between the parties hereto, that the Agent, Mr. David Center, shall at ALL TIMES retain in his hands a sufficient sum of money to defray the expenses of bringing the Circus with all its appurtenances back to San Francisco, and neither of the parties to this agreement shall be entitled to draw any money from the treasury at any time when said amount shall

not be in the hands of the Agent as a reserved fund. It is also understood that the property of the Circus shall be under the control of the Agent of the Proprietor, subject always to the necessary direction of the Manager.

In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals this Seventeenth day of September, A. D. 1857.

	JOHN CENTER	SEAL
	NAT AUSTIN, Manager	SEAL
In presence of	J. HERNANDEZ,	SEAL
HENRY BAKER	JAMES MELVILLE	SEAL

—o—



SAN JOSE

Following its re-organization The Pioneer Circus exhibited here in September, 1857

San Joes 19 Sept 1857

Dear Brother

We played the last to a $320.50/100 House and as this is Pay day I Paid all the Men up to this date that is all that is hired I Made a culclation of the Expences of one week they will amount to $875. Per week then there is the salary for Teames and Preformers which amount in all to $1500.00/100 Per week we are furnished at the rate of $1.50 Per Man Per day $1. of Each Horse Per day we leve hear to night after Preformance is over for San Juan which is 40 Miles and to Santa Cruse from there I do not know where we will go to but we will be back in time for the Stockton Fair every thing moves along smoothly we are in hopes that there will be a good House to night Give My Respects to Ann and Your self in Hest

I Remain you affactionat Brother

David Center

——o——

San Jose Sept 21st

J. Center

Dear Sir

I was with the Company last night and they had a fair house $230.—which was good for Sunday night we will be in San Jose on Friday and Mrs. Austin will do the ascension and wants you to send up the Ascension Rope as she will do it on Friday Evening. Send up the Saddles from Frisco, and they will send Mr. Whites Saddles I will be in Stockton on Friday or Saturday it is a hard Route through here to make money

Truly yours

J. Alexander

STOCKTON

As it appeared in 1857 when The Pioneer Circus exhibited there

San Jose Sept 22nd

J. Center

Dear Sir

I wrote to you yesterday for the ascension rope; But put the letter in the American Express so it may not have Reached you Please send the Rope up to this Place as soon as Possible as they will be here on Friday Morning and will want the Rope to Put up they had a good house on Sunday at San Juan and will do well at Watsonville and Santa Cruz But I do not think they can make anything on their way back They want you to send up their saddles and they will send down Mr. Whites I will write you from Stockton and Let you know the Prospects

Truly Yours

J. Alexander

——o——

Albany Oregon Sep 27th, 1857

Mr. Center

I set down to write you a few lines in regard to those circus wagons I want to know the least you will take for your baggage wagons & the band wagon put them down at the lowest scent and let me know Immediately. Direct your letter to Portland Oregon I have been traveling with Rowes Company this summer & know what the wagons are We may want all your trappings if you put them down right. tell me how all the boys are getting along Yours in haste

Thos. W. Rhoades

Stockton 30 Sept 1857

Dear Brother

I received all the things yesterday and the trunk this morning everything go off well, as yet we had not a very fool House last night but we will have a good one tonight, thier is no other curcuse in this place but ours. the San Francisco Minstrals is playing in a canvass on the old Circuse ground and we had to take a new lot to play on and the people did not find out the diffrance untill they went in to. then we put up a large sign with lights in it we only took in $213.50 but I think we will take in over 400 to night but as you will be upe to morow it will be usless for me to write any more we play hear untill Satuardy night be sure to come up to morow

Your affaction Brother

My respects to Ann. D. Center

——o——

Nevada 17 Oct 1857

Dear Brother

I have just received your Letter at Half Past 9 Ock P. M. and Hesten to write you a fue Lines in Hest it is now three weeks Since we sattled up in Stockton we have traveled over considerable of the Country Since then but it has Paid very Poor only for the Last fue nights it has Paid Expenses & I was going to with draw the Teams but all thought we would find it better ahead like a horse Hunting Green Grass I declared a deviden for one week and send down $450 Dollars to you to night. We Leave for Orleans Flat tomorrow Morning where Alexander has Sold the House for 2 nights for $1000 00/100 and then for San Juan and from thire I do not know, but we will be in Marysville in four or five days I would give you the rout but we only know ourselves from Place to Place I have only Paid the Preformers 1 weeks Salery. Since you was at Stockton and if we have to Loose 2 weeks Salery for the Teams they will have to Loose 2 weeks Salery also. I will write you tomorrow more fuly as the Express is closing. we are all will

I remain you affactionat Brother

David Center

Oroville 23 Oct 1857

Dear Brother

We arived hear this morning from a drive of 25 miles at night. I wrot you from Nevada and I would wrot again before this time but Wells & Fargo had no Expresses in any of the Towns that we was in untill we come hear we have dun tolarable well but our Expenses has ben very higher for our recepts I have on Hand this week over and above Expenses $945. and our chances of this nights Preformance. tomorrow we will settle up for 1 week when we gate to Marysville. Sunday Night we will be in Sacremento City and commence preformances on Tuesday night they are going to play 1 week thier and if it will Pay any Longer they think aboat stoping Longer but that depends how it will pay you. Come up on Monday night boat Mr Austin wants Mrs Austin's Trunk sent up and the Basket with his Jugling Balls & Bay Mare but I think we can hire 1 horse from Mr. Huckes that will do as will.

The Boys that Bought the house at Orleans Flat for 2 nights Lost over $400 on the speculation but I got all the money without any truble as thier was five Hundred Dollars deposited on sining the contrack and when I gave them the Tickets to sell they Paid me five Hundred and deposited five Hundred more to be paid at the commensment of the sell of the tickets nixt night, which I atended to wery close They will not speculate in circuses very soon again, all the company is will and sends thier Respects to you

I do not Know how we will do hear to night but I think we ought to take in over 300 Dollars. I have Paid the Licenses the City License is $26 the state & county is $11 we play in Marysville tomorrow night.

My Best Respects to Ann
and My Respects to your self
I remain your affactionat Brother

David Center
in Hist

Sacramento Oct. 23

J. Center

Dr Sir

I arrived here last night and the company will be here on sunday and open the National Theater on Tuesday. I left them all well and making a little money. They perform at Oroville tonight, Marysville Saturday and drive down on Sunday, open on Tuesday and David told me to write to you to send up Nat's juggling things and Mrs. Austin's trunk.

I have been very sick but am getting better. Will tell you all when you come up.

Truly yours

J. Alexander

——o——

Marysville 24 Oct 1857

Dear Brother

We arrived hear about 2 hours ago we had a very good house Last night $480. we will leave hear tomorow morning for Sacramento City. we want the 4 Horse Trappings for riding a four Horse Act and Mr George Peoples wants you to send both his Trunks up to Sacremento City and a hat in a lather hat Box, I left it in my Room on the tope of the desk. he has Bought one of Lees old Horses for to ride on. I will settle up with the men after dinner and make a deviden. I will keep it untill you come up to Sac. City do not forgote to send the things up on Monday Boat I have never got Jos. Hernandez's Pakege I left word at Navada to send it to Marysville if it comes there after I left

I Remain you affectionat

Brother

David Center

San Francisco Saturday Oct 30th

My Dear Brother

I have returned to Banks his carrige. the Bill of Hire at $50— per month is one & one Halfe month's $75.00 The repairs to be done so as to have it right. Parts of it broken so I have paid Berry $10—and agreed what is to be done so the whole Bill of Hire & repairs paid by me is Eighty-five Dollars $85.00 which you will see settled My sincere respects to all the Company

I remain your

Affectionate Brother

John Center

P S I have gone to the store where they had the Tights and had them go to Wells Fargo and have them sent to Navada after the Lost things so I think they will have them here soon if possable.

J. Center

Enclosed find your order paid Robison By me. Before you leave have it arranged who is to make up the House. James Berry is one of them, and it should be also understood that when it dont pay, stope and come down as soon as possable and not get in debt if they make up to come down let me know by letter or telegraf me

John Center

——o——

J. Center Sacramento Nov" 5th 1857

Dr Sir

We are Doing A Poor Business this week So far

Monday we had	$215.
Tuesday	$132.
Wednesday	$250.

So You See we will be Short of Expenses but the Salaries will have to Lose it as the other Debts must be Paid Will you have the Building in, Frisco ready next week and what will be the Prospects for two or three weeks Business Let me know whether to come Down or not and what time to open Austin is Same, all the rest is well, Truly Yours

J. Alexander

San Francisco Nov 13th 1857

Mr Joseph A. Rowe

Understanding that you were desirous of having the privilege before other parties, of repurchasing the stock and paraphernalia of the "Pioneer Circus" formerly your property. And having concluded for the purpose of reimbursing myself as soon as possible with the monies that I have expended on the same, as well as to save future expenses, to sell from time to time as opportunity may present, all of said stock, trappings etc, now, before so doing. I hereby offer you the first chance of purchasing the same at a price which will reimburse me for the monies which I am now laying out of in said Curcus, provided this offer should be accepted within ten days from this date, and the said monies paid over to me within that time.

Yours etc

John Center.

——o——

Sacramento November 19th, 1857

John Center.

Dear Sir:

We did not get here until nine o'clock and Bill Morrell had gone out gunning so I will not see him before night. The others will work for the salaroes we talked of. Austin and his wife fifty, Peoples and horse thirty, or probably twenty-five, and all board themselves. Morrell has been over at Lee's ranch and I do not know about him but am almost sure he can be had. I will telegraph as soon as I see him. These people are glad to get something to do.

Truly Yours?

J. Alexander

Jos. A. Rowe

In AC/C With John Center

Cr.

By amt. of receipts from the Company . $1370.25
from Sept 17. to Nov 20
" cash recd from sale of Waggon in S. F. 175.
" " " " " Horse " " 175.

— — — — —

Sept 1. By Balance A/C rendered		9314.97
2 Mos & 20 Ds wages for James Center @ 100$ per mo		266.66
1 Mo & 17 D wages for David Center @ 100 per mo		156.51
G. L. Banks bill stable hire		70
" " " " buggy hire		35
Nelson & Doble's bill shoing horses &c		112.75
J Berry Co's bill repairing wagon		45.50
2 Mos & 20 Ds int on two percent of 9575.45 . .		658.05
		$10659.44

Contra

By 1 horse sold James Center . . .	300	
" amt of receipts from the Company from Sept 1st to Nov 20/57 . .	1370.25	
Sold in San Francisco—1 wagon . . .	152	
" " " " 1 horse	175	
		1997.25
		8662.19
Use of pair of grey horses during the whole trips 7 Mos 70 Ds @ $1 per day . .		230
2 weeks Board of 18 Horeses @ 50c per day . .		126
3 " " " 26 " @ 50c " " . .		279
Wages & board of 2 ostlers 35 days each @ 2$ per day		140
		$ 9437.19

J. Center Sacramento Nov 29 57

Dr Sir

I have been round among the Performers and I think they will all Go with Rowe if he will Give them their Salary but they will ask him A high Salary as they can Get Waggons and Canvas Bills, etc. furnished by A Man in town to travel with next Summer, but he had Better Come up and see them himself, if I was to tell them not to Go they would not Go, but I will help him if he Comes up to engage them as I think it will be better for them the Place I was to have is filled Temporarily but if I see nothing Better Can have it in A short time

Truly yours

J. Alexander

——o——

Sacramento
December 2nd 57

Dear Col. Rowe

I write these few lines hoping they will find you well in health, as they leave me and my Wife at present. I am very sorry you could not make arrangements to open the Circus this winter as it will throw us all back very much, and in fact I do not know exactly what to do for the best as there is nothing doing here and times are very dull. I have tried to get work and cannot, and my money is all run out and I, cannot get any, and I do not know any one that would be likely to lend me a little money unless it is you. Therefore I, hope you will be so kind as to loan me about one hundred Dollars untill the Spring. I, have nothing that I could let you have as security or I would let you have it. but you may rest assured that I will return it with thanks as soon as possible. If you can do this I wish you to send it as soon as possible and convenient.

and oblige

Your humble
Servant

Nat Austin

P S. Please Give my respects to all and look after Wild Bill.

Sacramento, Dec 7th

Col. Jos. A. Rowe

Dr. Sir

the times is as Dull as can be up here, and no hopes of A better I have been waiting for something to turn up. But as Yet nothing is Done and even the Money that I Loaned in Good faith I can not Get. Still I can make out to Live for some time Yet. I have not heard how Rowe is Getting on or whether he got the Stock or not John Marshal wrote to Peoples that he was not Going to Australia with Rowe Please write me what the Prospects are for Spring as I must look out for something then, William Franklin has Gone in the country, Austin & Peoples live together, Worrell is Shooting Ducks and Hernandez is living on his woman, I board at the Golden Eagle.

Truly yours,

J. Alexander

——o——

Sacramento Dec 29th 1857

Dear Sir

I am not Going to Australia and I wish you would take care of my Tight Rope, Fixings, Juggling Balls & traps as I will have to have them in the Spring I had intended to Go to Australia but Mrs. Austin will not Go so I will Stay next Season here and Go to the States in the fall. Let me hear from you

Yours, etc

Nat. Austin

State of California
County of Los Angeles
Office of County Clerk.

pr. "Republic"

Los Angeles, February 1st, 1858

Jos. A. Rowe Esq.
San Francisco.

Dear Sir:

A Mr. Bailey who arrived here on the last steamer has been examining the Rancho of "Sta Anita" with a view of purchasing. He offers for the Rancho Twenty Thousand Dollars, Cash, and requests the refusal of it at that price, for three months, until he can communicate with his sons who are now living at "Baca Valley"*—I told him I would write you on the subject, and if it did not interfere with any of your arrangements, thought you would grant him the time he required. I am to give him an answer by return of this Steamer; will you please write me on the subject.

Yours respfy.
Chas R. Johnson

*Vaca Valley

——o——

Honolulu, Feb 7th, 1858

Friend John Center,

I write these few lines to give you an account of our Business, and things in general. We arrived here safe after a long Passage of 25 days. We have performed here seven nights, to a business as folows, first night $539, second $270.50, third $225.50, forth $150.50, fifth, $105.50, sixth $275.50, seventh and last $413.50, with an expence of $250 per day, so you see we have not don anything here, as all the whale ships had left here befour we arrived here; We arrived here on a Wednesday and performed on the Saturday, and finished on last night, giving 7 performances, and shall leave this tomorrow or next day, so you see that I am not

lusing time, I have not made up my mind wether I shall tuch at Tahiti or not, as it is very poore place. We shall clear for New Zeland, and if we have favorable winds will not stop at Tahiti. Frank Whittiker and Hernandez has been Drunk ever since they have bin here, and Frank & wife talks of heaving here and stoping here, and in all proberbility Mr. Raphael will stope here too, they are both two sweet cented scoundrals; Mrs. Rowe is well and sends her regards to you, James and Ann, as he calls her not knowing her wright name, I hope that all gos well with you and that you will be able to git my affairs settled in the corse of time, sattesfactuly to yourself and me, I have worked here very hard, up late and erley and as I am now Joe A Rowe again and mean to remain so with the will of God, I feel in a maner happy, although I am not making money at present but there is no such thing as fail with me now, if I all that man practibity and perseverence will accomplish I am Bound to do.

if these performers which I have above mention should leave us here I dont care I shall go ahead, for I can give a good show with the rest.

Marshall makes a good partner so far, and I think will continue to do so, and he works hard as well as myself, now for a word about the Horses. Wild Bill arrived here alive, and but very little or no better and the Brown pony Billy Botton Broke out on the Passage with the same Disease Glanders, so I tuck him up on deck and Bled him and don all that I could do for him, but our stop here has ben so short that, they have not had time to cure them and shall have to leave them here. I have nothing more of Emportance to comunacate to you But will write you from the next place, and trusting that you will write me to Sydney, and let me know how all has went

I remain yours ever thankful J. A. Rowe

You will please excuse this
blotted and bad written sheet as
Im in much haste

J.A.R.

Ranch nr Sutterville
Sac Co. March 8th/1858

Friend Center

We have yesterday concluded our 3 weeks session of the Grand Jury and you will see we have indicted your Law & Murder Friend Ned McGowan for the assault upon you also in our report we have condemned his paper published here So you of San Francisco may justly conclude you have a few sympathisers in Sacramento I received your welcome and liberal present of Currant bushes Rhubarb Roots Flowers etc for which accept our thanks they are all growing fine The Reaper you spoke of to me you may send whenever it suits your convenience and charge me what you think it worth and I will remit you the amount on receipt of same My Family all desire to be remembered to you and Your Brother I am very busy having been 3 weeks on the Grand Jury so I have to make up lost time so you will excuse this short scribble but will write you again soon, any thing I can do for you up here command me and I am at your service with great pleasure give my respects to the "original" Jimmy Linners as a more worthy man it is hard to find long may he live to please and edify When you come up to Sacramento you must be sure and come down to the Ranch if I don't see you in town John Hutchins bought the National Theatre the other day he had a mortgage for about $19,000 bought it for 11 thousand I believe it belonged to Lee the Circus Man accept the best wishes for your prosperity of your

Friend Truly

Joseph Sutton

Sacramento March 8th 1858

John Center

Sir

I have concluded to write to you once more to assure you that altho everything has been against me this winter there is a prospect of the Good time coming and that so sure as I am able to work I will pay you all I owe you. I have this day engaged to George Mitchell at $125.—per month to start in ten days and as soon as I can get a little for my family you shall be satisfied. I heard of the assualt made upon you at Sacramento and believe me that made me a vigalante for ever, they cowardly miscreants deserve the severest penalty of the law which I hope to see them get, as I am told, some of them are known. Peoples says it was reported that Circus men done it, but that is not believed to be so. I know there is not a man here that was ever with the Circus that would be guilty of such an act I wish I had the old Pioneer out again. We would soon have plenty of money as the times is good in the Mines.

J. Alexander

——o——

Assembly Hall
April 1st 1858

To John Center Esq.

Dear Sir

I enclose one of the printed affidavits which were circulated yesterday. Please tell me what is ment by the Law Record of the 1st Judicial Dist. that "Attachments released"?

Have you sold Santa Anita? Please write me how well you were pleased with your visit at Los Angeles & oblige

Your Obt Servt

Henry Hancock

State of California
County of Los Angeles
Office of County Clerk.

Los Angeles, April 8th, 1858.

To John Center Esq.
San Francisco.

Dear Sir

Business has overrun me since you left here, having had two Courts in session, and been obliged to go to San Diego, I have not had time to finish up Rowe a/c's. The deed was received and recorded and all is safe; everything is carried on in your brother David Center name, and nothing has turned up.

The plants were received please accept my thanks.

Yours

Johnson.

——o——

State of California,
County of Los Angeles,
Office of County Clerk.

To John Center Esq. Los Angeles, June 10, 1858.
San Franco.

Dear Sir.

Your favor of May was received during my absence to Fort Yuma, where I was obliged to go on business.

The rents of the two last months have been consumed in painting and repairing the property; it is now in first rate order, and I think I shall rent it to the County for six months; they will give One hundred dollars month for the Main Street property which is much better than to rent to private individuals, and less expense for repairs.

Rowe a/c's are made out and ready except making a clean copy.

Hoping to see you in San Francisco by the next steamer, I remain Yours

Chas R. Johnson

JOHN CENTER ESQ. SYDNEY June 1858
San Francisco
DEAR FRIEND

Yours, of April the 11th has only come to hand, and I hasten to replye, and I am much pleased, with all that you have don on the Rancho and other propertyes, and truly Glad to hear from you and family, we leave this tomorrow for Melbourne, we have don nothing here, bareley paid our way. Have bought som wardrobe, two horses, and som propertyes, things is very different here to what they wore when I left this country, but in Melbourne times is better I am told, and if we can manage to spend winter, we will be able to travel nex summer, when I am in hopes to make som moneys, for myself. I was disappointed not hering from Mrs. Bassett. Mrs. Rowe sends here love to Ann, and her best regards to you, Jas. & David, I shall execut the Deed this afternoon, and it will be forwarded by the first vessel that leaves here for California, you will please remember me to all friends, and beleave me

Ever yours truly

P.S. Dont forget to write as often as there is an oppertunity J. A. ROWE

——o——

SAN FRANCISCO September 2 1858

J. CENTER ESQR.
DEAR SIR

We hold a promissory note of Mr. J. A. Rowe for $3000. dated December 2 1857 and payable 8 months from date with int. at the rate of 2% pr month. This note became due on the 2nd of August and we wish to know whether Mr Rowe made any arrangement with you to take it up at maturity or whether we shall be obliged to sell the jewelry held as security for the payment

H F FESCHMACHER
Trustee
GEO. H. HOWARD
Trustee

"FINIS"

Rowe returned to San Francisco in the year 1860, after having an unprofitable trip to the South Sea Islands and Australia, resulting in such a heavy loss that he had scarcely enough cash to get him back to San Francisco. Nevertheless, he was much sought after on his return and many good positions were offered to him by show men. He was kept busy in the circus ring until September 4, 1864, when he became manager for Gilbert's Menagerie and Museum on Market Street, San Francisco. In 1866, his name appears in the San Francisco Great Register as an engraver. At that time he was quite extensively engaged in wood engraving for large display ads mainly for the Show Business. But it was more of a fascinating hobby and much less of a permanent occupation than training horses or taking part in circus life, which came first. Wood engraving he learned while young, being part of the circus business at that time, and many of his own circus display ads were designed and engraved by him. On page 23 is a sample that is his own work. He did most of his engraving in Charles A. Calhoun's Print Shop. Charlie was a most versatile personage besides being a good general all round printer. Ned Deaves was *the* wood engraver of that period, artistic and capable, but he had the sad fault—lack of reliability. Consequently, Rowe would often finish some of his work. He enjoyed this work and did it more for the pleasure that he derived from it than for the profit he gained. Later The Francis-Valentine Company took over the Calhoun establishment. All of Rowe's wood cuts were burned in a fire that swept their building.

In the meantime Rowe was employed by John Wilson, owner of Wilson's Circus, as Ring Master. He also was Advance Agent for Owen McDonald, a Circus Manager of the Seventies. His familiarity with the territory of California made him exceedingly valuable.

About 1875, Rowe made his final bow to the Circus world, after which he spent the remaining years of his life as a horse trainer, and soon our hero who had once starred in the Ring became so obscure that he no longer figured even in a minor degree in a side show. A Pioneer of Pioneers departed from San Francisco on the "Unknown Journey," November 3, 1887, practically unnoticed.

An edition of 1250 copies, fifty of which are reserved for private distribution, published by Albert Dressler, November First, Nineteen Twenty-six, of which this is

Number 569